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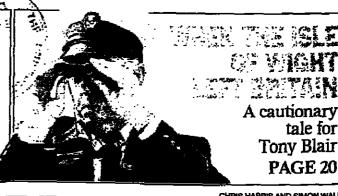
GREAT GARDEN GIVE-AWAY

Free four-month membership of the Royal Horticultural Society TOKER THEFE END DETAILS PAGE 10



Complete guide to European festivals PAGE 36





'Royal college' plan to boost teachers

20p basic tax rate is set as Tory target

INSIDE

JOHN MAJOR will today promise to aim for a 20p basic rate of income tax within the next five years as part of a formula for prosperity" to keep Britain booming.

It will be the first time that the Prime Minister has said when he hopes to achieve that goal, and he intends to contrast it to Labour's allegedly vague commitment to an eventual bottom rate of 10p.

Mr Major will also put the expansion of educational choice at the heart of his appeal to the country, promising to improve standards through a new "royal college" of teachers. That would be comparable to the Royal College of Nursing and have a similar remit of improving standards, discouraging militancy and enhancing the prestige of teaching as a

The ideas will be outlined in the Conservatives 22,000-word manifesto, which Mr Major will describe as the boldest and most far-reaching decades. Other proposed measures include plans to force councils to sell homes that have been empty for more than a year, the privatisation of the London Underground, and the granting of greater commercial freedom to the Post Office. Mr Major will also promise to keep public spending below 40 per cent of the national income, to aim to eliminate public borrowing by the year 2000, and to ensure that Britain retains the lowest tax burden in Europe. According to Tory sources

Election 97. Matthew Parris. The Times team... Guide to the issues Leading article

the strong theme will be the extension of personal choice and security and the tax pledge, in particular, will please the Right, John Redwood said last night: "I want to see us aiming for a 20p rate in five years. We can do it and we should do it."

Mr Major will launch the manifesto encouraged by an Labour's lead has narrowed by four points, although he remains dogged by the sleaze



At least he's guaranteed the Prime Minister's backing"

allegations surrounding the former minister Neil Hamilton. Yesterday he used his morning press conference to take all the questions the press could throw at him on the subject, defending Mr Hamilton's right to remain a candidate while he declared his innocence of the charges against him.

He also condemned the "witch-hunt mentality" being adopted, and attacked Tony Blair for suggesting that he would have sacked Mr Hamilton had he been a Labour MP. But any hopes that the issue might die were dashed when the Liberal Democrats announced that they would join Labour in seeking a suitable anti-corruption candidate to stand against Mr Hamilton in Tatton. Names being floated in Westminster last night were Frances Lawrence, widow of the murdered London headmaster, and Judge Stephen Tumim. Mrs Lawrence made plain, however, that she was

unwilling to be considered. campaign proper, Paddy Ashdown sought to ridicule both Labour and the Tories by putting on a Punch and Judy show featuring Mr Blair as Punch and Mr Major as Judy. His serious message was a call for a return to real issues.

Last night's ICM poll in The Guardian gave Mr Major his first ray of hope for some time. Taken over the Easter weekend, it put Labour on 46 per cent, down two points, the Conservatives on 32 per cent, up two, and the Liberal Democrats on 17 per cent, up one.





On their buses: The Blairs and Majors began constituency campaigning yesterday when Labour and Tories rolled out their election coaches

Labour wants stars to aid new talent

By JILL SHERMAN CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

film stars will be given incentives to donate some of their royalties to a fund to sponsor talented youngsters under a plan to be revealed in Labour's manifesto tomorrow.

Labour is considering giving tax incentives to successful performers to encourage them to help gifted children. Pop stars such as Mick Hucknall of Simply Red and Annie Lennox would be encouraged to give part of their earnings to an endowment fund similar to the National Trust which would distribute the money to talented

youngsters. Special exhibitions and concerts could also be arranged with part of the

proceeds going to a proposed National Endowment for Science and the Arts, which would also be partly funded by sport are central to the task of recreating the sense of community, identity and civic pride that should define our country," the manifesto says. "Yet we consistently undervalue the role of the arts and culture in helping to create a civic society from

amateur theatre to our art galleries." Although financial incentives will not be detailed in the manifesto, a party source said that tax incentives were under active consideration. The manifesto argues that thousands of people are employed in the arts and culture, and many are signficant earners for Britain, bringing in millions of tourists.

The manifesto also makes clear that, number of people would benefit. It would take a lead in promoting opportunities for sportsmen. sports must be the foundation. We will bring the Government's policy of forcing schools to sell off playing fields to an end," the document says.

It also pledges full backing for England's bid to host the 2006 World Cup, saying that a Labour government would "work to bring the Olympics and other major international sporting events to Britain*.

A Labour spokesman said: "Labour is about prudence and responsbility, but that does not mean that it cannot

The manifesto also says that Labour would review the distribution of lottery funds to ensure that the maximum

under a separate initiative, Labour confirms that a Labour government would set up a new millennium commission that would support a range of education, environment and public heath projects.

Tony Blair yesterday gave his clearest indication yet that a Labour government would not sign up to a single European currency if that would threaten Britain's interests (James Landale writes).

In a firm attempt to counter Tory claims that Labour is soft on Europe, the Labour leader emphasised his party's manifesto commitment to holding a referendum on a single currency. He also insisted that a Labour government would argue strongly against a single currency if the Maastricht criteria for membership were fudged.

Spacecraft is at the final frontier

The American space agency Nasa has pulled the plug on the spacecraft Pioneer 10, was launched in March 1972 to explore Jupiter.

The spacecraft is more than six billion miles away. Its signal is still being picked up but only one experiment is working and the cost is no longer justified Page 6

Netanyahu puts blame on Egypt

The Israeli Prime Minister accused Egypt of fanning the flames of radicalism in the Middle East and of helping to push the peace process to its present crisis.

Binyamin Netanyahu was referring to recent violence and the Arab League's determination to isolate

Baylog The Times overseas
Austria Sch 40; Belgium B Frs 100;
Canada 33.50; Canaries Pts 325;
Cypars CE1 20; Denmark Dkr 18.00;
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The Times on the Internet http://www.the-times.co.uk



fair share of lottery cash

By Alexandra Frean, media correspondent

lottery grants since 1995, but

golf is missing out."

The council will not give grants to clubs which discriminate against a particular section of society, and many golf clubs restrict the not have full voting rights.

The century-old York Golf also had a men-only bar.

retary, said that the rules were backed by most of the women ship fee.

refused a £1 million grant towards the purchase of the freehold on its land because its membership rules discriminate against women. Newport Golf Člub in South Wales.

however, agreed to remove the restrictions on women mem-bers to qualify for a £39,072 grant towards new practice age and water supplies.

Terry Coates, chairman and chief executive of the Women's Professional Golfers European Tour, said he was disappointed that so many clubs still held "old fashioned" views when it came to equal opportunities. "It frustrates the development of women's amateur and professional

changes ... they are a marvellous set of chaps who most times think the way that

Thames craft are left high and dry

BY NICK NUTTALL ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

BOATS on the Thames are at increasing risk of running aground after two years of record-breaking drought and a month of exceptionally dry Yesterday the Port of

London Authority issued navigation notices restricting sailings between Kew and Teddington and urging boat users to take care at low tides. The low flows have led to the cancellation of boat trips up to Hampton Court over the past few days and more and more vessels have been grounding as the channels

normally deep enough to take them dwindle away. The news comes as the Institute of Hydrology, which monitors weather patterns, is to pronounce last month as having had half its expected rainfall. An official said yesterday that the figures were likely March 1995 to last month was the driest two-year period since records began 200 to 230 years ago.

The conditions on the upper tidal reaches of the Thames are believed to be unprecedented for the time of year. The Port of London Author-

ity said that navigation notices had been issued last year but only at the end of the summer. "We normally only issue navigation notices like these at the end of a summer of drought. But we are looking here at a river in April. We are very concerned," an official said. The authority is seeking talks with the Environment Agency and Thames Water to see how flows can be boosted if the

situation deteriorates further. March is the end of the socalled recharge period when water companies expect reservoirs, rivers and underground Continued on page 2, col 2

Informers are now paid according to

individual assessments of their worth.

Normally a detective chief inspector

authorises the cash, although a chief

constable may step in when large

Payments vary widely. The Audit

Commission found during research in

1992 that the average police force fund

for payments was £19,000 and the

amounts are being proposed.

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Unfair sexism costs golf

GOLF clubs are missing out on millions of pounds in lottery grants because they refuse to admit women members, according to an unpublished Sports Council report. The council has given out £427 million in some 2.000

only 21 -- worth a total of E3 million — have gone to golf. A further 70 applications from golf clubs have been refused, making it the only major sport to have more projects rejected than supported. Peter Grant, who wrote the

Sports Council report, said: The lottery is potentially the greatest opportunity for clubbased sport ... and, to date,

By STEWART TENDLER

CRIME CORRESPONDENT

DETECTIVES are to fix a national pay

scale for police informers in an attempt

to bring proper accounting to the murky world of the snitch.

Tips will be valued using a points

system agreed by all forces. Each point

would be worth between £50 and £100,

and informers could earn up to £3,000.

up by a working party within the

Plans for the scale have been drawn

times that women may play. are run by men-only commit-tees and have men-only bars. Often, women members do

Club was refused a £880,000 lottery grant last December largely because it bans women from playing on Saturdays or from sitting on the governing committee. Until last month, it Richard Bradden, club sec-

players, partly because they paid a much lower member-Lytham Green Drive Golf Club in Lancashire was also

Association of Chief Police Officers and

will be put to a conference of 150 senior

detectives this week. The system is

expected to be tested in Kent and by the

The conference will also discuss the progress of a secret national database

of registered informers which is de-

signed to prevent people being paid by

more than one force for the same

information. It will also include

warnings about dangerous or manipu-

lative informers. At the same time, a

South-East Regional Crime Squad.

greens and improved drain-

game. Freda Fairbank, now 92, who joined York Golf Club in 1916 and still plays twice a week, said yesterday: "Things are going along nicely as they are. I wouldn't like to see any

to show that the period from

Old Bill sets national pay scale for its prize snouts code of practice is to be introduced to also be paid if an informer had put

> numbers of child informers. The ideas have been put forward as detectives are increasingly using informers to tackle crimes such as mugging and burglary and to break

help the police to manage the growing

drug-trafficking gangs. Under the plans, forces would award points according to a national code,

with bonus points available for help in convicting a top "target' criminal or for a big drug haul. Extra money would

SPORT43-46, 48 ELECTION 979-14

average award was £100.

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himself at risk.

Prison ship wins go-ahead to take first inmates

week accused of robbery involving £800.

Mr Brittle, from Rotherham, south Yorkshire, has a handcuff on his left

wrist, which is chained to a Group 4

security guard who sits at the end of the

MP for Rotherham, called on the Home

Secretary to intervene and order the

remand prisoner to be unchained. He

said: "The barbaric approach of Conser-

vative ministers to sick people who have

Last night Denis MacShane, Labour

By RICHARD FORD HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE first inmates to be held on a prison ship since the Victorian age will board Her Majesty's Prison Weare at the end of the month after Labour endorsed planning approval for the vessel's onshore facilities.

Jack Straw backed the plan after being warned by the Prison Service that without emergency accommodation there was a danger of a "loss of

and Wales. He was also told by Ann Widdecombe, the Prisons Minister, that last Tuesday the service only avoided locking out prisoners in the North West "by the narrowest of margins". The service has been bussing inmates around the country in an increasingly desperate search to meet the

rise in prison numbers. Last week the jail population reached 59,710.

Mr Straw was briefed on the crisis because as the general election has been called, the Government needed Labour's approval for onshore facilities to be erected near the mooring at Portland harbour in Dorset.

Richard Tilt, Director-General of the Prison Service, was called in to talk to the Shadow Home Secretary on the scale of the crisis facing the Prison control" in jails in England . Service. He warned Mr Straw of the threat of a breakdown in control in prisons unless extra places were found. Although the number of inmates in the 135 jails in England and Wales traditionally falls over Easter, the jail population is expected to start rising by 350 a week by the middle of the month.

Miss Widdecombe sought

visitors' centre and storage facilities. The local council had protested that the prison ship would hit the tourist industry. Technically, the council's efforts to resist the ship being moored at Portland were based largely on its objection to the construction of a five-

A REMAND prisoner recovering from a lung transplant is shackled to a

security guard in hospital (Richard

Ford writes). The disclosure has re-

opened the row over the chaining of sick

Doncaster private prison to North General Hospital in Sheffield after

collapsing in the jail, where he was on

remand facing robbery charges. He had

a lung transplant last December and

fence on the harbour. The actual berthing of the ship fell outside planning legislation.

However, after a planning inquiry, John Gummer, the Environment Secretary. backed the proposal. In its ruling, the DoE said: "The Secretary of State is satisfied

locations has been chosen and that the development will not appear out of place in a commercial, working port.

"The views of it from the main tourist areas and beaches, some two miles away, will be very limited."

In Miss Widdecombe's letter seeking Labour support, said: "The need to have prison places is acute. The Prison Service is operating extremely close to its capacity limit."

She added that if the Prison Service was unable to place inmates on the Weare by the end of the month, the service would have to use police cells at a cost of £300 per prisoners

assessment undertaken by Premier Pris-

ons, the company running Doncaster

temporary basis. Shackled patient revives security dispute unacceptable in the late twentieth Mr Brittle is chained because of a risk

> jail. A spokesman for the jail said: "We did a risk assessment and the protectio of the public is our top priority. We decided because of the seriousness of the charge, he should be under restraint". A hospital spokesman said: "Our consultants at the moment do not feel that the restraint is impeding his care."

per night. Mr Straw wrote to Miss Widdecombe supporting the planning approval. He said that given Mr Tilt's warnings and "in the interests of public safety and prudent

financial management" the ship should be used on a However, he condemned the Government for allowing

a population crisis to develop in the prison system. It had resulted in a desperate search for emergency accommoda-tion at disused military bases in Yorkshire and a former Pontins holiday camp in Lancashire.

He said: The Tories have let a scandalous situation develop. They have allowed the prison population to reach a record level without planning proper accommodation. "It is so bad that the head of the Prison Service has warned of a risk of a 'loss of control' and

(Alexandra Frean writes).

Viewers give Five

less than 3 per cent

plummeted on Monday, its second day of transmission, according to unofficial figures. The station captured only 27

per cent of the audience during peak hours of 7-10.30pm, compared to 5 per cent on opening night on Sunday

Its biggest audience of the night was 900,000 viewers for

the feature film Losing Chase, starring Helen Mirren. Its

flagship programme, the soap Family Affairs, had an audience of 300,000. As usual on a Bank Holiday, BBCl had

the lion's share of the audience with 45.5 per cent of viewers during peak time. A double issue of EastEnders was

watched by 15.3 million, while its compilation of archive

footage of celebrities before they attained fame reached 14.2

million. An audience of 127 million for Coronation Street helped push ITV's share to 32.7 per cent. BBC2 won 7.9 per

Boy dies in fall on knife

A 12-year-old boy died after falling on a knife sticking out of an open dishwasher in the kitchen of his home. Mark

Rockingham, from Kettering, Northamptonshire, tripped as

he was reaching across the dishwasher to a cupboard. He

fell onto the kitchen knife, severing an artery in his chest.

His parents, David and Barbara, called paramedics but the

boy died shortly after arriving at hospital on Easter Day. A

Teenager's body found

The body of a teenager drowned at sea after giving up his

lifejacket to save his father has been found nearly three

months after he died. Paul Cyster, 18, was lost along with his

brother David, 16 when their father Stephen's fishing boat

capsized. The teenager's body was recovered last Friday near the Clifton suspension bridge, nine miles from the scene of the accident in the Bristol Channel. His brother's

cent of viewers and Channel 4 took 4.8 per cent.

date has yet to be fixed for an inquest.

body was found ten days after the accident.

ministers are talking of using nolice cells".

He said Labour would help the government "clear up the mess" but demanded that the Home Office conduct a full audit of prison places and the demands being put on the

Up to 500 low-risk prisoners are to be held for up to three years aboard the Weare which is moored in Portland harbour after being bought by the Prison Service from 13.5

The Weare was formally known as The Resolution. It was moored in the Hudson River near New York after being used until 1994 by the New York City Department of Corrections to hold mediumsecurity prisons. The Resolution provided dormitory accommodation on its five decks for soldiers after the Falklands conflict.

Disaster evidence not new, say police

By PAUL WILKINSON

the Hillsborough disaster were rejected yesterday by the police force that took much of the responsibility for the 1989

tragedy.
Ian Daines, the force's assistant chief constable, said that reports of a new video tape showing the crowd pens in the Sheffield Wednesday football stadium where 96 fans were fatally crushed only added "confusion to an already complex set of circumstances".

The support group set up by the families of the victims yesterday demanded a reopening of the inquiry after viewing the video, said to have been shot by a surveillance camera monitoring the Leppings Lane end of the ground during the FA Cup semi-final

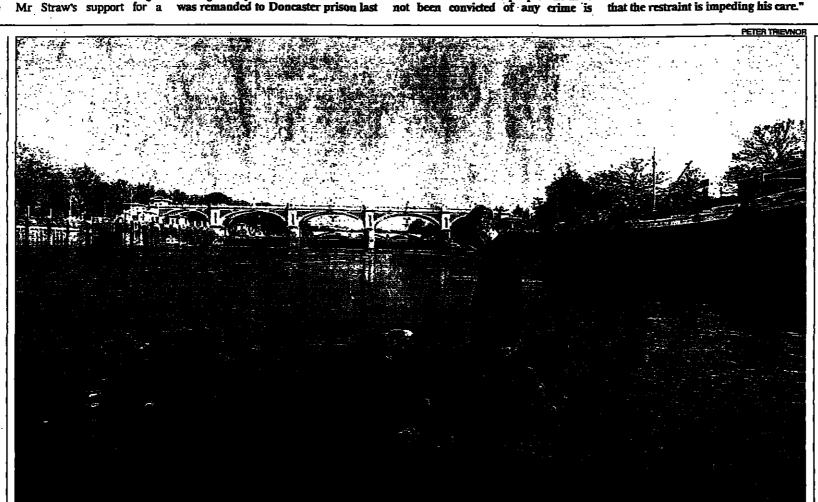
South Yorkshire Police has always maintained that because of a malfunction its officers could not see that the pens were already full when they ordered gates to be

The force told the inquiry by Lord Justice Taylor and the inquest that because of a malfunction the pictures were of a "very poor quality", but according to a report published yesterday the video shows that the camera provided a clear enough picture for individuals to be picked out.

The video tape has lain in the archives of Yorkshire Television since it was given to the company by the police for use as part of a documentary.

The CPS said yesterday: "We are looking at the material. We have promised a response within 14 days."

on request.



Near Richmond Bridge parts of the Thames have become shallow enough to allow walking where once there was a navigation channel

Continued from page 1 resources to be replenished before the spring. But winter rainfall has been 70 per cent of normal and underground sources that feed rivers are low in parts of the South and South Éast.

For vessels to navigate at low tide between Richmond and Kew without serious problems, 350 million gallons of water need to flow over Teddington Weir every day. In severe shortage, less than 100 million gallons are available.

At low tide, because of the low flows the levels are now about 19 inches below their normal levels for the time of year. It means that over some

Boats left high and dry

stretches of the Thames, channels are now only about three

"With rainfall being reported as well below average by the Meteorological Office for the past eight years and this had to to leap ashore.

January being the fourth dri
He blamed Thames est on record, groundwater level are extremely low. This means less water will flow into the Thames and its tributaries," David Jeffery, the Port of London Authority chief execu-

John Collier, whose family run pleasure boats upstream from Westminster pier, said were undermining business. Yesterday Mr Collier, at the helm of the Clifton Castle, found it impossible to dock flush to Kew pier. Passengers

for taking too much water for public supply and urged the Port of London Authority to start dredging in the upper tidal reaches. But the authority said that dredging was not the answer to raising water levels: the water would simply run into the valleys created by

for the Environment Agency's Thames Region, said yesterday: "We are looking at a whole range of contigency plans should this worsen into ging their garden over recent

He said that the Environment Agency was looking at the possibility of cutting the amounts of fresh water the water comapanies are allowed to take.

But at the end of the day

there is a need to maintain public water supply for the people of London," Dr Arkell

aid. 3 2 2 1 Away from the river, it emerged yesterday that many point-to-point racing events had become a farce as owners and riders began to withdraw horses because the ground was too hard.

Carl Evans, a member of the Point To Point Owners' and Riders' Association and the Times correspondent for the sport, said that at the East Kent meeting in Aldington there had been only ten runners for six races. Many meetings nowadays, he added. saw "walkovers", with only one horse entered.

Top black

officer in

race claim

By Russell Jenkins

THE most senior black police-

man in Britain's second larg-

est force claimed yesterday

that he was repeatedly passed

over for promotion in favour of women and white officers

Chief Inspector Martin

Harding, 39, from Rochdale,

Greater Manchester, told an

industrial tribunal hearing

that he was denied advance-

ment in Greater Manchester

because of his colour.

Camera clue to killer

Recordings by closed-circuit television cameras could disclose the identity of the killer of an aspiring poet beaten around the head and left in her blazing house. Cameras installed along the seafront from Brighton to Hove are thought to have recorded Deborah Thomas's last journey from a nightclub accompanied by an unknown man. Detailed results of a post-mortem examination on Miss Thomas, 37, who had two children, are being awaited.

Council's tribunal bill

A local authority is faced with a bill of up to £200,000 after being ordered by an industrial tribunal to re-employ a worker unfairly accused of irregularities. Liverpool City Council must take back Kevin Nolan, who was dismissed from his £24,000-a-year post with the council's building and maintenance division. In addition to back pay, Mr Nolan, 48, will receive a sum to compensate for the distress he has suffered. All allegations against him were dropped.

Kidnap mother ill

Mavis Mangan, 6l, who met John Major in Downing Street last month to discuss ways of winning freedom for her son Keith, kidnapped by rebels in Kashmir in 1995, has suffered a heart attack. She has cancelled a trip to India this month, where she hoped to make a personal plea to the kidnappers. Mrs Mangan, from Middlesbrough. Teesside, was yesterday "quite comfortable" in South Cleveland Hospital, and may be allowed home in a few days.

Priest on theft charge

A Roman Catholic priest was yesterday charged with stealing more than £200,000 from church funds. Father Seamus Hetherton, 65, was released on conditional bail after appearing before Dartford magistrates on four theft charges. He originally faced one charge of allegedly stealing £17,350 from a Catholic Social Club in Swanley, Kent. He was later charged with three further offences of theft of funds from the Church of the Holy Apostles, Swanley.

Hotel on rails plan fails

Eurostar's £200 million plan to run luxury "hotels" on wheels between Britain's regional cities and Europe has been scrapped. More than 30 of the carriages, featuring bedrooms and reclining seats, have been delivered. But doubts about demand and the inability of the Eurostar engines to supply enough power for washing facilities and lavatories have indefinitely postponed the plan. If all the toilets were flushed at once the train would come to a halt.

The BT Friends & Family Reunion Free Prize Draw.

In total BT will hold six prize draws on the following dates: 14 April, 12 May, 7 June, 7 July, 4 August and 8 September 1997.

The prize for each draw will be a Reunion trip for up to 30 persons.

Entry into the prize draw is automatic for Friends & Family members. All winners shall participate in required Reunion publicity. If you wish to opt out of the prize draw please call 0800 005 210.

Non BT customers or non Friends & Family members may enter the prize draw by calling 0800 005 210. Please contact us 48 hours before the date of the next draw. Full terms and conditions are available



The fast-track chief constable takes over

By Stewart Tendler, crime correspondent

BEFORE joining the Metropolitan Police at the age of 20, Elizabeth Neville's experiences of the law were limited to being stopped for riding her bicycle without lights as an undergraduate at St Hilda's in Oxford, where she read philosophy and psychology.

Yesterday she took over the reins of the 1,180-strong Wiltshire force as Britain's second woman chief constable. Wiltshire is one of the largest force areas in England and covers Stonehenge, the Salisbury Plain and the industrial town of Swindon.

An inspector in her mid-twenties, Miss Neville, the daughter of a civil engineer and an educational psychologist, was recruited under a graduate fast-track scheme. She became a superintendent at 33 and beat 20 men to become assistant chief constable of Sussex five years later. In 1995 she became the most senior operational woman commander as deputy chief constable of Northamptonshire.

Miss Neville still bridles at the biographies and news-paper profiles that have fastened on the fact that she is a

divorced mother of two: she has a son Michael and a daughter Katherine by her marriage to another police officer. She likes to point out that no one ever talks about male officers in the same

She says she has always had support from her male colleagues during her career and never experienced sexism in a highly male-dominated profession. Only once, 13 years ago after the birth of her first child, did anybody question her return to work.



Neville: will head one

Police because he was a man and of "African origin". The officer, who is claiming racial and sexual discrimination, said he was accepted as a candidate for promotion to chief inspector in July 1992 and was told it could be 18 months before he was made up. However, he was not promoted until March 1996. Mr Harding, a father of two, said: "Four other officers

substantive or temporary positions within six months."

passed the board on the same

day. All were white and one

was a woman. Three gained

Greater Manchester Police strongly deny the allegations

and have said that they will fiercely contest the action.

Moby may live on as a museum piece

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

THE skeleton of Moby, the 50ft sperm whale that died on the mudflats of the Forth on Easter Monday, could become an exhibit in the National Museums of Scotland in Edinburgh.

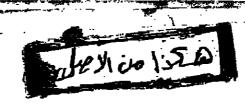
Curators have been given permission to recover the bones of the 40 tonne mammal after an autopsy by a Department of Environment pathologist. Yesterday the Receiver of Wrecks accepted responsibility for disposing of the whale, which is Crown property, having beached below the high water mark. Moby's remains will be buried in a landfill site near Grangemouth. Falkirk Council has agreed to assist.

Dr Keith Todd, curator at North Queensferry's Deep Sea World, and Eric Crombie, the centre's diver, spent the night with Moby to ensure that people did not try to take his teeth for souvenirs. This morning, a tug will pull the dead

whale off the soft mudbank at high tide and be taken to a jetty at South Alloa, where attempts will be made to lift him by crane onto an articulated lorry. The whale will then be taken to the council landfill

The cost of Moby's disposal, estimated at around £3,000, will be met by the Receiver of Wrecks and there may be a donation from the National Museums, if it manages to raise the £5,000 needed to





Princess accuses photographer of harassment

By Stephen Farrell

DIANA, Princess of Wales, yesterday accused a paparazzi photographer of harassing her after she asked a passer-by to help and stood by as he removed the film.

clear up the national last the national last the

laces and the

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The Princess issued a statement justifying her action in response to police criticism of her role in the incident outside an exclusive west London gym. Her rescuer was a Gaelic football player who makes a living as an hotel tout.

A tabloid newspaper yester-day published pictures of Kevin Duggan, 28, from West Belfast, forcing award-winning royal photographer Brendan Beirne against a wall and putting him in an

Police said there would be no action because Mr Beirne did not make a complaint. However senior officers were furious and said it demonstrated that the Princess needed her full-time police protection to be restored. Apart from anything else an alleged assault took place and a theft." said one source.

The Princess responded by issuing a statement from her office saying she had found the photographer's actions distressing. Once again the Princess of Wales has been harassed by a photographer. Once again this has become the subject of inaccurate press comment," the statement said.

"The Princess hopes that the recently passed Protection from Harassment Act will give greater protection to people such as herself who are the victims of this kind of distressing intrusion into their

private lives." Mr Beirne, 39, said he took the pictures from 50ft away as the Princess left the gym on Monday morning, and was astonished when she ran across the road, demanded the

film and then summoned

help.
"I am stunned she did not it. It was step in and stop it. It was outrageous. She knows I am not a stalker or a threat. I have taken photographs of her for ten years," he said.

It will certainly make me think twice about taking that sort of picture again, not if it's a big news situation, but in that sort of circumstances."

Mr Duggan was last night with reporters from The Sun newspaper which has bought his story. He is reported to have claimed he had no idea

who he was helping.
"I thought it was a Di lookalike at first but I would have done the same for any woman. It's a question of manners. My mum brought me up to be a gentleman." However, his account was

greeted with scepticism. Alan Robertson, a fellow tout who works at Earl's Court Underground station earning £3 commission for every tourist persuaded to sign at the budget Chelsea Hotel near by. said: "In some ways it's not surprising because he's quicktempered, he does things like that. He's had arguments in pubs. He knew it was Princess Diana and he may have done

it for the publicity." Mr Robertson added: "He said. Alan, I've just grabbed a photographer, and put his arm up his back, and taken the camera off him, and given it to Lady Di, and Di says. don't worry, the police won't bother you'."

Justin Andrews, 23, manager of the Chelsea Hotel, said: 'Kevin's quite a pleasant guy. He works on and off, stays here most of the time. He's quite a gentleman, and I approve of what he has done. "Di asked for him to grab

the camera." He had not

heard from Mr Duggan since the incident happened. "I think he's just enjoying it," he

Hotel security guard Alan Wayne, 27, said: "He's a nice guy, he'll always help someone out. He's a real ladies'

Kelvin Bruce, the freelance photographer who witnessed the scene and sold his pictures for around £8,000, said: "He knew full well it was the Princess. She was standing there talking to a photographer. She's not easily mistaken." Legal sources last night

indicated that the Princess would be unlikely to win a prosecution in such circumstances under the Protection from Harassment Bill 1997, which received Royal Assent last month but which will not come into force until after the general election

The legislation is intended to protect victims from stalkers and nuisance neighbours. It creates two new crimes, the most serious carrying a maximum five year jail sentence and unlimited fine.

However for an offence to be committed the behaviour must have occurred more than once and it allows the alleged offender to claim his course of conduct was reasonable in the particular circumstances.

In August last year the Princess won a High Court injunction against the freelance photographer Martin Stenning, 36, banning him from going within 300 yards of her. She complained that Stenning made her life a misery by following her everywhere on his Suzuki motorcycle and resorted to taking his helmet and keys.

Brendan Beirne was the 1995 Nikon Royal Photogra-



The Princess looks on as Brendan Bierne is held in an armlock by Kevin Duggan

Father finds his daughter dead in road crash

A POLICE inspector wept openly yesterday as he told of going to the scene of a fatal car crash near his home and finding that his daughter had been killed.

Chief Inspector Tim Yeoman said he went out in the car with his other daughter to look for Charis when she and her boyfriend were late for a family meal at Easter.

They came across people leaning over a footbridge to look at an accident. "Like all fathers I hoped it was not my child, that they were one of the ones in the queue. But it wasn t, it was my daughter. Miss Yeoman, a 20-year-old

student nurse, was on her way to her parents' home in Tiverion, Devon, when her car was hit by another which careered into her path from the other side of a dualcarriageway. Her boyfriend, Jason Jago, broke his arm in the crash and suffered lacer-

Stephen Pengelly, from Tiverion, the driver of the other car, was described as being in a serious condition with multiple injuries in the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital vesterday, where he was flown by air ambulance.

Mr Yeoman, who works at Devon and Cornwall Police headquarters near Exeter, said he could not express the depth of his grief. "She was a lovely daughter. Now my other daughter. Nicola, has no sister. Her boyfriend has no girlfriend."

She and Mr Jago, a university student, were planning to marry next year after she had qualified. "They were made for each other. This is an absolute and total tragedy," Mr Yeoman said, Nicola Yeoman is a nurse at the Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick

Of the crash, he said: "I just want it to be known that if crash barriers had been erected along that dual-carriage-



Charis Yeoman: she was planning to marry



Tim Yeoman: he called for crash barriers

way this tragedy may never have happened." He said there had been two fatal accidents on the road in two years. "One fatal is one too many. I really do feel that this is now three too many." Assistant Chief Constable

John Albon said traffic had been heavy over the holiday. "It is every father's worst nightmare to drive out and look for his daughter and to come across that carnage."

He said that had the acci-

dent been further along the road, she would have survived as there were crash barriers

Police are appealing for witnesses to the crash, which happened at 6pm on Monday evening, halfway between the A361 junction with the M5 and the Bolham junction.

Archers villain prompts farmyard slip by Ford

By BILL FROST

MANY Radio 4 listeners rang the BBC vesterday to complain at Anna Ford's use of a vulgar term of abuse during the Today programme.

The presenter, who later apologised for the slip, described Simon Pemberton, heartless and grasping villain of Radio 4's The Archers, as "rather a shit" for trying to evict his tenants, the Grundys. from their farm. Although several fans of the radio serial telephoned to support Ms Ford's blunt verdict on the socalled Borchester Bounder. about 40 callers expressed

anger at her gaffe.

The BBC switchboard got its first call shortly after 8.25am when Ms Ford was discussing Pemberton's attempt to banish the Grundys from their home with spokesmen from the Country Landowners' Association and the Tenant Farmers' Association.

The Borchester Bounder "does seem rather a shit, he's a bit ruthless, shouldn't he be counselled?", she suggested.

Ms Ford, 53, came out of the studio at the end of the programme to face a "mild dressing down from production staff for "letting her heart rule her head", according to one insider.

The broadcaster, who probably spoke for a legion of Radio 4 listeners who back the beleaguered Grundys against their cruel landlord, said: "I realise it was an unfortunate slip of the tongue."

A BBC spokesman said: "We had a number of complaints. I think a lot came from non-metropolitan listeners who are not used to hearing this sort of language. It is the sort of thing that can happen on live radio." Jon Barton, Editor of Today, also expressed regret: This is a long,

live programme and occasionally things do slip out."

Pemberton - played by Peter Wingfield - carved an unenviable reputation for greed, coldness and politically incorrect attitudes towards women and social inferiors even before issuing the Grundvs with a notice to ouit. Mr Wingfield was in Canada filming an episode of the science fiction series Highlander.

A spokeswoman for his unpopular in this country as Simon Pemberton but he has lots of admirers abroad for the role in Highlander. There are Peter Wingfield fan clubs in Canada and France."

Peter Tewkesbury, a longtime listener, acknowledged that the line between art and reality had been blurred by Simon Pemberton's arrival.

Leading article, page 21



Formidable Flame bucking its way through the spectators' enclosure at Southwell

Bolting racehorse knocks baby out of his pram

BY TIM JONES

A BABY escaped unhurt yesterday after a runaway racehorse kicked over his pram as it bolted through a crowd of spectators. Lee Marshall, aged two

months, was knocked to the ground when the animal bucked and hit the side of his pushchair with its hooves as it ran wild through the speciator's enclosure at Southwell, Nounghamshire.

Thousands of television viewers saw the incident as the horse Formidable Flame, unsexted its jockey, burst out of the estarting stalls and smashed through the rails into

the erowi The child was being looked after by his grandmother, Magnen Marshall, when the horse panicked just before it was muc to run in the 3 o'clock race Mrs Marshall said: "It was terrifying. People were

screaming and scattering as the loose horse came towards me. It was bucking and lashing out and it swept past and bowled me and the baby in the pushchair over." Paul Marshall, Lee's father,

said: "It knocked me over and gave me a bang on the leg but I was not hurt. Then I saw the

Lee Marshall in safe hands after the incident pushchair and the baby on the ground. Thank God he has not been hurt." Mr Marshall, a joiner from

Normanton, Derbyshire, said: "Me and my mother had one hand each on the pushchair when the horse came smashing through the fencing and made straight for us. The horse looked massive and I was still looking at it when it was only three or four feet away. We were just frozen

"I saw its hoof go straight into the pram but then I was knocked over and for a moment I lost sight of the baby. But then I picked him up and his face was a bit red from where he had landed on it but apart from that he was perfect-

Lee was taken to hospital for checks, but was released soon afterwards.

Racing, page 15



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Teaching unions back refusal to take unruly pupils

TFACHERS launched a concerted attempt yesterday to stem the growing level of threatened not to teach the most disruptive pupils.

For the first time, delegates at the National Union of Teachers' annual conference voted to support members refusing to teach pupils who present an "unacceptable safe-ty risk". The move put the union in line with the rival National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, which yes-terday said that schools could easily expel 100,000 children a year, eight times the current figure, if they were strict about dealing with serious disrup-

However, the two unions adopt different solutions. The NASUWT blames the integration of disruptive pupils into mainstream schools ill-equipped to deal with them, and wants more special schools and referral units. The NUT supports "inclusive education" and demands that schools be given more money to cope with pupils with

In a passionate debate at the NUT conference in Harrogate, many delegates were reluctant to countenance exclusion, despite séveral accounts of violent incidents. A and excluded all youngsters five-year-old was said to have given a teacher a black eye. while in other schools pupils had hurled chairs at teachers and vandalised their cars.

Richard Rieser, from Hackney, in east London, said children were being demon-ised by the press. There is an unwillingness to accept that children don't just hit people because they don't like them. Something has happened to those children in society."

The conference backed a resolution expressing concern at the rising level of exclusions and blaming underfunding. wider problems in society and persistent denigration of teachers by the Government and media. It also blamed league tables for encouraging schools to rid themselves of

Delegates also agreed that members should be balloted on a refusal to teach pupils who presented an "unacceptable safety risk", especially when a head teacher's decision to exclude a pupil was

The NASUWT annual conference in Bournemouth called yesterday for more special schools and pupil referral units, dubbed "sin bins", to take troublemakers. Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary, said: "If schools were strict

who swore or threatened violence against their pupils or teachers, they would easily exclude 100,000 a year."

Dave Battye, union secre-tary in Sheffield, said a female teacher suffered a broken knee, black eye, kicked shin and a punch in the back from one disruptive pupil in a single term. He added: "The parent believes she is a perfect parent because she gives him everything he wants. If they go to the shops and he sees something he wants, he gets it. We need to define what good

The NASUWT also called for the scrapping of independent appeals panels which send pupils back to school after both the head and governors agree to expel them.

☐ Left wing teachers in the NUT were warned not to challenge a new government.
Mr McAvoy told delegates in
his closing address that the
190,000 members would not
back industrial action of the type threatened during three

There can be no national disruption, no confrontation with a new government, with out a majority vote in favour of that action," he said.

Anticipating a Labour government, he said he expected it to consult the NUT on policy.



Nigel Turner told colleagues that some pupils would never reach national norms

Darrens and Deans are 'born to fail at school'

By DAVID CHARTER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN from inner-city backgrounds are born to fail, comprehensive school teacher told colleagues at a

union conference yesterday.
The "Darrens, Deans and Damians" had no chance of reaching national norms of achievement, Nigel Turner, a geography teacher in Notting-ham, told the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers:

Mr Turner embarrassed his union's leadership by saying that no amount of extra cash could significantly improve standards for some pupils. He pecting too much from innercity children. His broadside came as Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the union. called on teachers to be less hostile towards Ofsted and accept that inspectors could

play a positive role. Mr Turner's school will be inspected later this month and he said he could write its inspection report now: The standards of achievement reached by the pupils are well below the national norms."

He added: "You could give our school all the resourcing, staffing, technology and inspirational teachers in the world for years and our kids would never meet the nat-

Darren, Dean, Damian, Liam and Nathan can't do it, never will do it, and frankly would not give a damn if they don't do it at all."

Mr Turner refused to confirm that his school was William Crane, a comprehensive lying 83rd out of 85 in the Nottinghamshire GCSE table, where 8 per cent of children achieve five passes at grades A to C.

Mr de Gruchy refused to be drawn into debate about Mr Turner's speech. Asked whether children could be identified as failures by their names, he commented: "I would not have put that interpretation upon it."

'Rat Boy' given four years for toby jug theft

A TEENAGE criminal whose activities earned him the soubriquet Rat Boy was identified publicly yesterday.

Anthony Kennedy was sentenced to four years at a young offenders' institution by Newcastle Crown Court after admitting two burglaries. Judge Harkins did not make an order banning his identification, which he had been entitled to do under the Children and Young Persons Act.

Kennedy, now 17, won his nickname in 1993 from his method of eluding police by the Byker Wall housing complex in Newcastle upon Tyne. He stole, often from elderly residents, to feed his addiction to tranquillisers.

Yesterday the court was told that he broke into the home of an 84-year-old man in Byker and stole a toby jug. When arrested he said he could not remember the break-in because he had taken between 30 and 50 Valium pills. He had hurled the jug at a police officer, leaving him with a cut face and black eyes.

In the other burglary. Kennedy had had a young accomplice. Brian Forster, for the defence, "He is a very young boy who has become hopeless ly addicted to Valium."

The judge told him: "You have to be locked up for a long time to protect the public. accept what is said in reports. that you desperately want your life to be different, but



Kennedy: addicted to tranquillisers

you are persistently involved. Kennedy had escaped from youth custody, including spe-

cialist secure units, on at least

37 occasions. Chief Inspector Michael Hassen said after the hearing: To give a four-year sentence statement. It shows young people that if you commit crimes you can expect a severe sentence. He was only last released on December 13 and between that date and the end of January he was arrested four times for matters including burglary, drugs and

"You reap what you sow. He has been in custody a number of times and is still a persistent



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New hope in liver cancer treatment

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A METHOD of delivering anti-cancer drugs directly to the liver could save 1,000 deaths from bowel cancer a vear, researchers said

The liver is the most common site of spread in bowel cancer. Scientists from the Imperial Cancer Research Fund studied 4,000 patients who had drugs infused directly into the blood supply to survival was increased by 5

Richard Gray, one of the studies unit in Oxford, said: "Even if this treatment were only moderately effective, it more than 10,000 worldwide." now undertaking the biggest study of cancer treatment in

China to confirm the results. Bowel cancer is the third most common cancer in Britain, with about 31,500 new cases a year. It is the second highest cause of cancer deaths. ☐ Scientists in Ohio have made the first artificial human chromosomes, which could eventually offer a cure for

inherited diseases (Bronwer Maddox writes). Researchers at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland and Athersys, the team's company that owns the rights to the new technology, report in Nature Genetics that they have made a miniature human chromosome which can replicate in the same way as natural

The artificial chromosome might offer a way of transporting a new gene into a cell to correct a genetic defect. It could help to cure inherited and possibly some forms of

author of the study, said yesterday that the significance of the work was that "it gives us a fresh approach to gene therapy. People have been so frustrated by gene therapy. which has not lived up to the

In the past, gene therapy has generally relied on viruses to deliver genes into a cell's chromosomes, but that has proved to be a hit-and-miss approach, and also carries the risk of causing genetic

Battle site holds off advancing builders

GUARDIANS of the battlefield of Tewkesbury have won a temporary reprieve in their fight to preserve one of the most important sites of the Wars of the Roses from the encroachment of housing.

Councillors in the Gloucestershire town, where in 1471 the Lancastrian hopes of restoring Henry VI to the throne ended in bloody slaughter at the hands of the Yorkist Edward IV. yesterday agreed to allow the building of 62. homes on Gastons Field, the ning committee will inspect

on May 6. tion by the developer, Bryant Homes Mercia, have come English Heritage, which lists Planning officials in Tewkesbury have told councillors that there is no legal reason for the

apllication to be refused.

Hormone spray can help to keep children dry at night

THE widely held opinion that childhood enuresis, or bedwetting, is the result of psychological upset may be mistaken, recent research has suggested

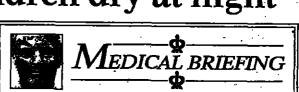
Careful investigations have failed to show any correlation between bed-wetting in children and such upsetting events as going to new schools, moving house, parental, financial or marital disasters,

The joint report in the British Journal of Clinical Practice by child psychiatrists from six Italian universities suggests that the high incidence of behavioural problems exhibited by children who wet their beds are the result of their enuresis, not the

Shame of what the child regards as continuing infantile behaviour and fear of punishment are often increased by a lack of understanding from parents: Those fears may prolong or exacerbate the enuresis.

The Italian doctors have been comparing two different pharmacological approaches to bed-wetting. The use of a small dose of a mild tricyclic antidepressant taken by mouth has been compared with the effect of using desmopressin, an artificially produced anti-diuretic hormone which is absorbed through the nose with the help of a nasal puffer.

Danish research workers demonstrated between 1985 and 1990 that enuretic child-



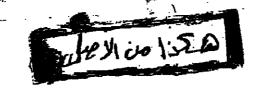
ren did not produce so much of the natural anti-diuretic which controls urine flow, at night as did those children who became dry at a normal age.

The tricyclic antidepressants are effective in the treatment of enuresis not so much because they improve a child's mood, but because they alter its sleep pattern and

muscles of the bladder. The trial showed that there was a significant decrease in the number of wet beds when either treatment was used. But was greater with the intranasal hormone.

> DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD





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Pioneer spacecraft boldly goes to the final frontier

THE American space agency Nasa has pulled the plug on its most distant emissary, the spacecraft Pioneer 10.

Launched in March 1972 to explore Jupiter, *Pioneer 10* became the first spacecraft to fly beyond Mars and the first to be placed on a trajectory to escape from the solar system. Now more than six billion miles away, Pioneer 10 has long since left its original mission behind. But until Monday evening, its signal a mere 2.5 billionths of a trillionth of a watt by the time it reaches Earth - was still

being picked up by Nasa.
With only one experiment still working and its power supply dwindling. Pioneer 10 no longer justifies the cost of keeping in touch. Nasa will save several million dollars a year by leaving the spacecraft to drift unaided into the dark.

The last signal was received at 8.45pm on Monday via a 230ft dish near Madrid, part of Nasa's Deep Space Net-work. The signal had taken more than nine hours to travel from the spacecraft, at a speed

of 186,000 miles per second. Larry Lasher, the project manager, said it was an emotional moment for some of the controllers. "Some of them have been on this mission for 20 years and this is their last day," Dr Lasher said. "It was quite traumatic, quite a loss for those people."

Like its sister Pioneer 11. which went silent in 1995, Pioneer 10 is powered by heat Launch: March 3 1972

generate electricity. Today there is enough power only for the onboard computer, the antenna and its one remaining

But James Van Allen, of the University of lowa, the space scientist responsible for that experiment, believes that it can still provide useful information about the heliopause, the point at which the influence of the Sun finally peters

When Pioneer 10 was launched, he said, that was thought to be barely beyond the orbit of Jupiter. In fact, the ten times further, but has yet to reach it. "The most credible estimate is that it lies at least 120 astronomical units away,"

Professor Van Allen said. One

astronomical unit is the dis-

tance between the Earth and

At present Pioneer 10 is 67 astronomical units (6.2 billion miles) away from Earth, so, if Professor Van Allen is right, it will have fallen silent long before it reaches the heliopause in 40 years or so. After that, the only landmark in sight is the star Ross 248 in the constellation of Andromeda, which Pioneer 10 will reach in about 30,000 years.

Despite Nasa's decision to stop tracking Pioneer 10, Professor Van Allen still hopes to get some data back. Dr Lasher has arranged for it to be used as a target for people learning to track objects deep in space. so its signals will be detected

additional expense. Until it finally dies, towards the end of this year or some time next, some data may continue to be gathered.

Even when both Pioneers are dead, data from interstellar space will continue to come from the better-equipped Voyager I and Voyager 2 space-craft, which should have enough power to keep going until about 2020, assuming that Nasa's budget remains

Pioneer 10 took the first close-up photographs of Jupiter and its moons, discovered intense zones of radiation around the giant planet and measured its magnetic field. It proved that the asteroid belt was not as destructive a minefield as had once been feared, and it paved the way

Pioneer 10 also carries a plaque designed by the astronomer Carl Sagan, in case it should ever fall into the hands of another civilisation. The gold-plated plaque contains diagrams of a man and a woman, and a celestial map in an effort to help aliens to work out where the spacecraft originated.

However, Professor Van Al-len called the plaque "a whim-sical touch" and said that the chances of it being found were slim. "The chances of it ever being recovered by any intelligent civilisation that will sit down with a magnifying glass and try to decide it are very remote, I think. That's a mild way of putting it."



Malcolm MacDonald arriving at court yesterday

Alcoholic football star gets road ban

By Paul Wilkinson

THE former soccer star Malcolm MacDonald was banned from driving for two years yesterday after being times over the lega

The former England, Newcastle United and Arsenal player, 47, told magistrates that he had turned to drink after his career ended at the age of 29 when he developed osteo-arthritis in his knees. He said that he drank up to a bottle of whisky a day to deaden the pain.

The offence took place in February when MacDonald was on his way home after hosting his hour-long football phone-in on Century Radio in Gateshead. MacDonald, who on March II had pleaded guilty to drink-driving, arrived at Newcastle upon Tyne Magistrates' Court yesterday with his girlfriend Carol Johnson, 45, the former wife of Brian Johnson, lead singer with rock band AC/DC. He also received an IS-month probation order and was told

to pay £40 costs. MacDonald, of Jesmond, Tyne and Wear, is seeking help for his alcohol problem with the North East branch of the charity Turning Point. Peter Lough, the group's manager, told the court: "He is over the first couple of hur-

Nurses

Prison Officers

Ambulance Service



"Supermac" in his heyday at Newcastle

dles. The easy bit is getting off the drink with medication and support. The hard part is staying off. If Malcolm can sustain his sobriety be can be a great help to us and have teams."

MacDonald's radio show has been taken over by other North Rast socrer stars. Century Radio said that a decision on MacDonald would be made at the next management meeting but the chances of his returning to the show were "not hopeful".

Youths risk lives again on death crash track

A train driver narrowly avoid ed hitting a group of up to ten children playing on a railway line at Leeds where two teenagers had been killed just 24 hours earlier. Railtrack said it was appalled that the children - some as young as five continued to trespass on the stretch of track where the two

boys had died on Sunday. Police named the dead boys. both from Leeds, as Mark Ashcroft, 13, of Halton Moor, and Ricky Smith, 15, of train from Middlesbrough to Manchester airport at 9.30pm. shortly after police were alerted that youths had been seen throwing stones at trains. Another teenager with then escaped injury.

Forest in Europe

A group of Nottingham Forest fans who were arrested before a match in Munich last year and spent three weeks in jail are taking claims of wrongful arrest to the European Court of Human Rights. Cases against all II were dropped.

Moorland fire

A fire, thought to have been caused by controlled burning that got out of hand, swept 500 acres of moorland at Banchory in Deeside, engulfing parts of the Hill of Fare and damaging nesting sites of grouse, mead ow pipits and curlews.

Head accused

A primary school head has been suspended after allegations that he smacked two pupils. Police interviewed Kevin Crabb from Wawne Primary School, near Hull. after the mother of a 9-yearold boy made a complaint.

Glass attack

An off-duty Cambridge policewoman was struck in the face with a broken glass in an attack outside a pub at Weymouth, Dorset, on Monday night. She has had to have stitches. Five people, including a woman, have been arrested

Ding gone

London's town crier has had his 17lb handbell stolen. Peter Moore, 53, last saw the 12in copper and brass bell on Monday afternoon when he put it down to chat to tourists who were visiting Tower Hill

Selling bee

Bee Health, of Scarborough, North Yorkshire, has won a £16 million deal to supply a natural remedy to Japan. The company is the world's largest refiner of propolis, manufactured by bees to protect their hives from infection.





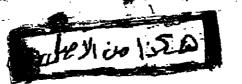
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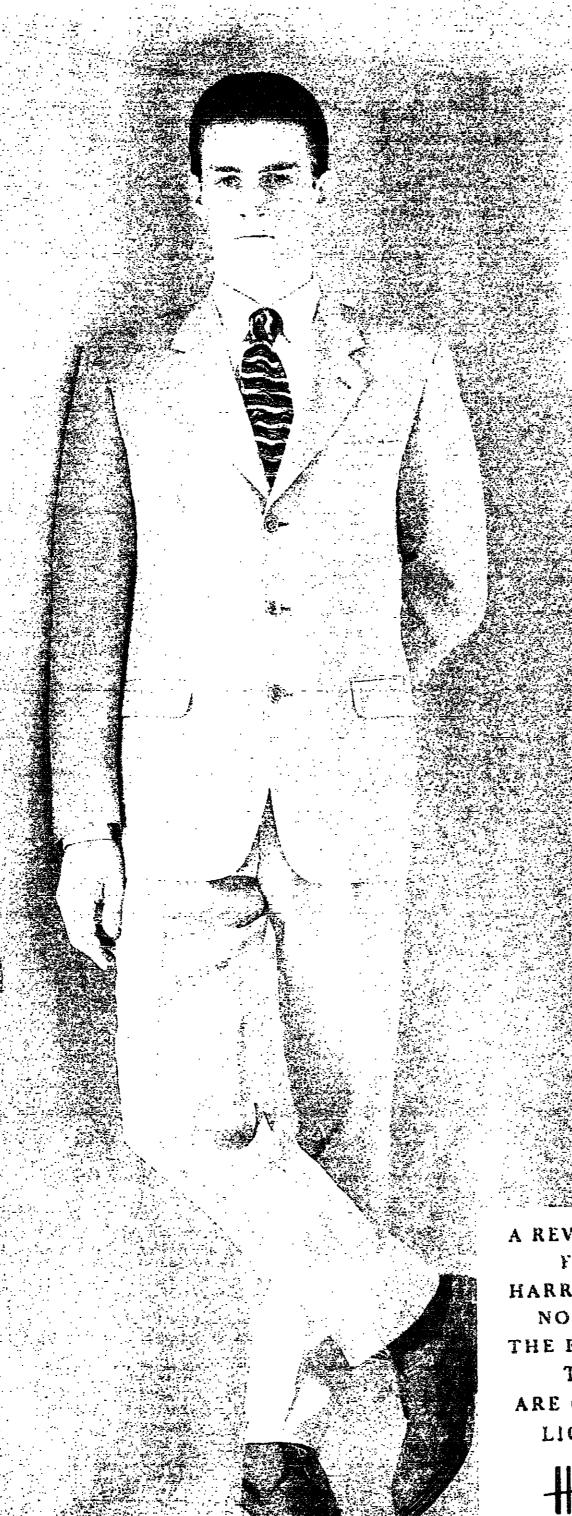
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ELECTION 97®

All aboard the Labour campaign mystery tour

HAUTS BUS

BY BEN MACINTYRE

TONY BLAIR'S campaign rolled into the heart of England yesterday on 18 bus wheels, kicking off the first day of official campaigning with a flurry of high technology and old fashioned baby-

The sleek, grey Blair bus is a vehicle more used to roving around the country with the likes of the pop group Simply Red. For the not-simply-red-anymore Labour Party it has been equipped with a dozen telephone lines, a fully computerised mobile office, black carpets, a well-stocked fridge and a curtained salon in the back with a horseshoe shaped banquette where Mr Blair will give interviews en route.

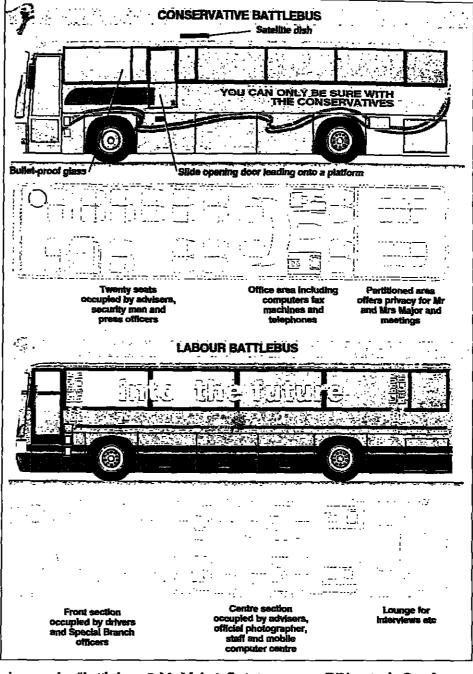
The vehicle on which he will be living for much of the next month is not your average mobile home. On board yesterday were a brace of armed Special Branch officers, the official party photographer, a fax machine, television, video and a posse of Mr Blair's closest media

Nothing can be seen behind the black-tinted glass save wraith-like, Mandelsonian shadows, energetically flitting back and forth.

After so long waiting for this moment, the Labour team was leaving nothing to chance, from the complimentary croissants for the assembled journalists in the two other buses trailing behind "Into the future with Tony Blair" to the Union Jack painted on the roof of the Blair bus, presumably to entice any low flying or otherwise floating voters.

Pop stars specialise in producing the unexpected. Mr Blair is concentrating on avoiding just that, and any hint of complacency. As his driver Chris Cox observed, taking Mr Blair and his troops around is "definitely easier" than nannying Deep Purple. -The watchwords of the Blair ampaign are the three Rs: to Remind voters of the Tory record. Reassure them that Labour is safe, and spell out . our government. To this might he added Restraining the accompanying press and Risk avoidance. Even the smallest error evokes dark looks, as when the almond croissants





The Blairs on the stump in Northampton yesterday after the party leaders unveiled their campaign "battle buses". Mr Major's first stop was at a DIY centre in Croydon

for the press ran out. The Blair team loves acronyms, and it was with visible pleasure that his advisers declared that TB (Tony Blair) left MBT (Millbank Tower) after his morning O&A within minutes of the ETD. "You may be slightly coralled," warned a press aide as the buses rumsure enough, in the town's 700-year-old market place, the almond-dusted hacks were herded, their mobile phones lowing gently, into a metal-fenced pen. This, it was ex-

"scrumming" around the Labour leader. Mr Blair's remarks on the ensuing walkabout would be relayed to the pen by a public address system, we were assured.

All morning rumours had been circulating that the "people's podium", Mr Blair's answer to John Major's soaptechnological wizardry. It turned out, disappointingly, to be a box. A grey box, with some non-slip red carpet

nonetheless. Mr Blair be treated to a sudden Sermon bounded on to it. "Hello, on the Box.

Northampton," he said in a Mr Blair and his wife plained, was to avoid the press crowd pleasing welcome sure-ly first practised in schooldays with the Ugly Rumours and perhaps inspired by the bus's previous occupants. "Yeah," said a chorus of Northampton voices. "God bless you Tony,"

The location of the walk about was kept secret until the last moment to avoid any organised heckling, and shoppers appeared wholly sur-

ed after them to form the traditional scrum.

cians usually avoid baby kiss-

plunged into the crowd. The vals across the town square. "I bet there's handsome eyes PA system immediately coughed and died, and the behind those shades," Cherie told Chris Lacey, a man with assembled press broke out of thick, wranground dark glasstheir enclosure and stampedes who, luckily for her, turned out not to be blind. He asked

declared to be "A pretty good ing, but the exhilarated Blairs kisser". Mr Blair, meanwhile, puckered up at regular inter-

planted a smacker without blenching on an ice-cream stained toddler, who then made strenuous efforts to rub it off. "Not sure about that reaction," said Mr Blair, "I'll you down as an

End of road for a trusty soapbox

MAJOR'S BUS

JOHN MAJOR's soapbox, mentioned in Tory dispatches for its battle role in the 1992 general election, faces the threat of redundancy (Arthur Leathley writes).

Only two weeks after being unveiled again as the Prime Minister's electioneering weapon, the taped-up wooden box is to be "downsized" in the shadow of a grander rival. A gleaming metallic and much larger version of the box is about to enter the

Senior Tories pointed proudly to the new platform, which slides out from Mr Major's campaign bus, as a key gadget from which the Prime Minister will address crowds across the country.

The platform on stilts enables Mr Major to step from a side-door of the coach and address crowds from three feet above the ground. Ap-parently the brainchild of Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman, it will enable the Prime Minister more room to manoeuvre when addressing crowds.

The bus hums with electronic gadgetry to ensure maximum security and that the Prime Minister maintains constant contact with ministers. Computers, fax machines and digital telebones have been fitted on the gleaming red, white and blue vehicle, which has only 20 seats because the rear has been converted into office

Emblazoned with the Tory party slogan "You can only be sure with the Conservatives' and a facsimile of Mr Major's signature. It is expected to travel more

than 9,000 miles during the

Defector urges Conservative waverers to join him in new 'One Nation' party



Howarth: abandoned the Tories in 1995

THE Tory defector Alan Howarth joined Tony Blair on the election platform yesterday as part of a drive to convince Tory waverers that New Labour was now the one-nation party" in British

politics (Jill Sherman writes). Mr Howarth, who defected to Labour on the eve of the 1995 Conservative conference. has been appointed to head a taskforce to appeal to disillusioned Tory voters. The recently selected candidate for the safe Labour seat of Newport East is to write to thousands of Conservatives across the country, including councillors, who have been identified as potential switchers to Labour. "My

message to them is simple. New Labour is real. It has changed for the better." Mr Howarth said. "It represents the best hope for our country. It is the one-nation party in British politics today. Support it and it will change Britain for

Mr Howarth said that he had left the Tory party "because it had changed for the worse" and had not had a single second thought since he had done so. "The party I was a member of has taken a march to the extreme of politics. It has lost sight of what it once stood for and abandoned the decent one-nation tradition in British politics." Labour

market economy but it also sought to heal social division and to extend opportunity regardless of background, he argued. It matches support for enterprise with support for

the weakest in society."

Later he told Radio 4's World at One that he was certain there were several Tory MPs deeply unhappy about the direction their party was taking. "Kenneth Clarke is now the only one standing for one-nation politics," he said. Blair said Mr Howarth would pay a "key role" in Labour's campaign.

Leading article, page 21

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Best to hold your nose, should you venture round Westminster

erhaps the most brazen of all the negative campaigners yesterday were the Liberal Democrats. At the party's 7.30am press conference, the media were treated to a Punch & Judy show. Punch and Judy (Tony and John) kept bop-ping each other on the head. This was meant to convey Liberal Democrat disgust at

negative campaigning". The fact that it was also a way for Paddy to bop both his rivals on the head was never mentioned. By 8am the smell of coffee was already mingled with the odour of sanctity.

Then came the Labour press conference. Tony Blair. who has professed his disgust at negative campaign-ing poked siyly at the Tories' difficulties over "sleaze" allegations. This was not (we were to understand) negative campaigning. It did not count as negative, because the Tories had "brought it on themselves". He then attacked John Major for lacking leadership. Ah. So criticising people is not negative if their problems are their own fault.

By 9.30am, as 1 joined journalists queueing outside Conservative Central Office for Major's own press conference, the odour of sanctity around Westminster had become a stench. There was a burst of

weird, piped musique noir to set the scene, and in stalked Brian Mawhinney. After a momentary shudder, the glint of John Major's spectacles - and in came the Prime Minister. He wore the pale, tired, cross look of a man has sat indoors throughout a sunny Bank holiday weekend, fretting over adverse newspaper re-

ports, while the rest of Britain frolicked on its lawn. He was spoiling for a fight. Tony Blair was "chicken". Why had he sidled out of a TV debate? Any time. any place Major was ready. He would accept the terms proposed by the television channels. This was present-

ed as a new challenge.

I felt sure I had heard the political novelist Michael



MATTHEW PARRIS

Dobbs (who has been negotiating for the Tories over the terms) say almost exactly this, last week, on the news. Nobody noticed, so Mr Major had reheated the challenge and served it up again.

He was tackled on the subject of Piers Merchant. Ten minutes earlier, we had seen a dazed-looking Michael Heseltine wandering around. The Deputy Prime Minister tried last week to snuff out Mr Merchant's not to recall this episode. 'Piers has been foolish." he said rather as might an infants' school headmistress report some minor difficulty with potty-training.

He was tackled on the subject of Sir Michael Hirst. He and Norma had telephoned to say how "sad and sympathetic" they were. He ounded genuinely upset. Then he was tackled over

Neil Hamilton. Major raged at the unfairness of a world in which Mr Hamilton had been pre-judged. He was articulate and convincing. He would have been even more convincing if in the backs of our minds had not lurked the suspicion that Major shared the world's judgment; wished Mr Ham-Ilton would go away: would have jettisoned him had he the means; but, lacking the means, was making the best of a bad job. Mr Major made a dogged and spirited best of it. But the Prime Minister.

too, was holding his nose.

ELECTION 97

ELECTION 97 The winning Times team

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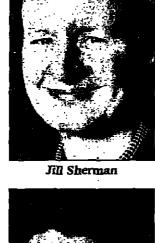
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Philip Webster

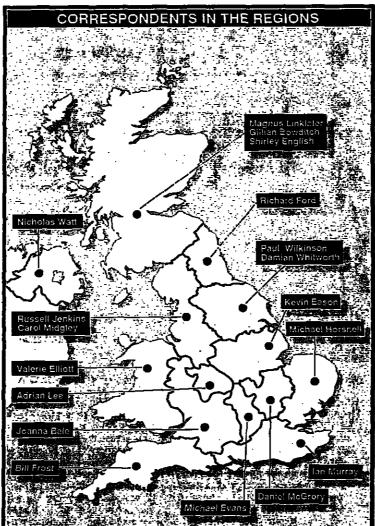
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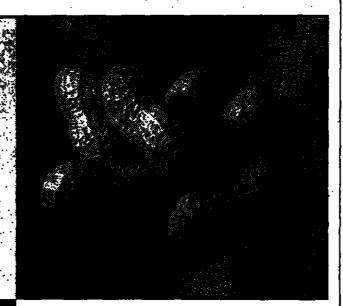
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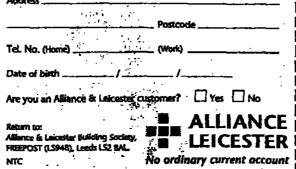
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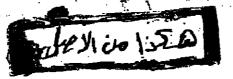
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ELECTION 97 11

Loyal ladies of Tatton stand by their man

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

NEIL HAMILTON'S immediate political career was saved not by John Major but by the loyalty and determination of the Tory ladies of Tatton, who clearly adore the suavity, charm and rightwing politics of their MP.

The Tatton women's asso-

riation, whose members refused to be budged by newspaper headlines or Central Office phone calls, bold the key to his retaining one of the great prizes in British politics — the safest Tory seat in the North.

Cushioned by wealth and separated from the problems of urban Britain by green belt, they have remained staunchly loyal to their MP. He knows the devastation threatened by Manchester Airport's proposed second runway to house prices in the

THE TORIES

villages. For the faithful the explosion of traffic in Alderley Edge caused by the completion of the A34 by-pass is much more important than a lorryload of sleaze.

On these questions Mr Hamilton is sound. His brand of rigorous, anti-bureaucratic Conservatism finds an echo in the Cheshire community where old money and older values sit comfortably with the silver-grey Mercedes of the new rich. One local dissident complained recently that Tatton was one of those seats that would elect a monkey providing it campaigned in Tory colours.

The cash-for-questions affair, which has embroiled the MP in what he has told friends is a living hell, has largely passed by the ordinary voters of Tatton. His supporters in the branches and on the constituency executive have formed a protective ring around Mr Hamilton and his wife, Christine, who together make a formidable team.

As the controversy has raged about him, the MP has spoken openly of being bathed in the love and affection of his ladies. The fury being whipped up daily in



Meeting and greeting: Neil Hamilton and his wife Christine, far right, are a formidable constituency team, with the local Tory women's association a source of conspicuous support

Guardian.

Pauline Breland, the worn-

en's association treasurer,

said: "It's brilliant news. I

have been in touch with Neil

every day and he has been

going through hell. We do

Westminster, first with Tim Smith's resignation, then over the allegations against Piers Merchant, was always regarded with deep suspicion. In the red-brick bunker in Knutsford that is headquarters to the local Consenvative association, the enemy are the "bungling, incompetent" spin-doctors of Central Office.

Mrs Hamilton, blonde and broad-shouldered, has made no bones about who she blamed. She has turned the air blue ordering the "greasy reptiles" of the press to get off the church daffodils.

Yesterday the Hamilton camp was jubilant that John Major had confirmed his original line that the MPs accused of taking cash for

questions are innocent until proven guilty. They are convinced that the adoption meeting on April 8 will be a formality and that the last hurdle in the way of Mr Hamilton standing as a can-

ed. He is turning his mind, for the first time, to his election address.

With Sir Gordon Downey's report postponed until after the general election, Mr Hamilton's official engagement diagraphics have for the

the general election, Mr Hamilton's official engagement diary is bare for the week. However, he is busy with a series of low-key meetings with those constituency members — never more than a handful — who have urged him to step down while doubts remained over his

didate in the Conservative

interest has been surmount-

onour and integrity. "That ladies of Knutsford and Wilmslow adore him. These are the women, largely elderly, who keep the association afloat and pay for its upkeep with bring and buy sales, coffee mornings and bridge

the Tatton association, welcomed the Prime Minister's initiative and issued a plea to "get back to the real issues" to be debated during the election period. Loyalists were less reserved.

They expressed their delight that the "flip-flop" goings-on in Central Office is now over and believe that their loyalty to their MP has been vindicated. Mr Hamilton's power base in Tatton comes from the steady cultivation of the women's association, where the comfortable ladies of Knutsford and Wilmslow adore him. These are the women, largely elderly, who keep the association affoat and pay for its upkeep with bring-and-buy sales, coffee mornings and bridge nights, and Mrs Hamilton makes sure that they are support him. He is a loyal worker for Tatton Conservatives. At the adoption meeting I am sure one or two people will get up and have their say but the majority will support him and we will get on and fight for him at the general election."

cherished.

When Jeannie Bowler, 69, of Great Warford, was sick recently, the Hamiltons left a bouquet of spring flowers on her doorstep—a gesture that cannot be neutralised by any number of headlines in The

Barbara Armitage, chairman of Alderly Edge Parish Council, said: "I am pleased the Prime Minister has come around to our way of thinking that everybody is innocent until proved guilty."

Nigel Schofield, treasurer

Nigel Schofield, treasurer of the Alderley Edge branch and a travel business executive, said that the Hamiltons appeared to sustain each other. The MP brought an intellectualism to the partnership while Christine was the

dynamic personality in the constituency. "They make a lovely blend," he said. "John Major waited to see how things went. I don't call that dithering. I call that judgment. At the right time he said that this man has not been found guilty of anything, why should he not stand if put forward as the

The prize is worth fighting for. Boundary changes mean that the Tatton constituency has taken in parts of middle-class Wilmslow and Alderley Edge and jettisoned industrial, Labour-voting Northwich. With a notional majority of 22,365, it forms the safest seat in the North and the fifth safest Tory seat in the land.

candidate for the constit-

Major eases calls to quit

By PHILIP WEBSTER POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR relaxed the pressure on Neil Hamilton by backing his right to stand in the election if his constituency party was behind him.

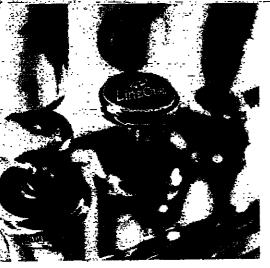
After failing at the weekend to persuade Mr Hamilton to go in the interests of the Tory party, the Prime Minister attacked Tony Blair's claim that he would have got rid of Mr Hamilton. At a press conference. Mr Major said: "I don't think that asking people who are wholly innocent to stand aside is leadership. If that happens this week, what happens if there is some unsubstantiated rumour next week? Would Mr Blair ask them to stand aside? At what point would the carnival end?"

He acknowledged that it was right for Mr Hamilton to stand down as Corporate Affairs Minister because of the sensitive nature of the job. He said that he would be "severe" if it was proved that Mr Hamilton and others were guilty.

Asked about the future of Piers Merchant, the MP for Beckenham. Mr Major said his colleague had admitted to behaving "foolishly" over an alleged relationship with a 17-year-old Soho nightclub hostess. He said the constituents of Beckenham would now decide whom to select as their Member of Parliament and he thought it would be Mr Merchant.

He hinted that changes to party rules to give Central Office a decision in the selection of candidates were possible. He said the party had fiercely guarded the independence of local constituencies:

dence of local constituencies:
"They have to work with the candidate; they have to support him or her in their campaign." But he added: "We may have to look at that later."



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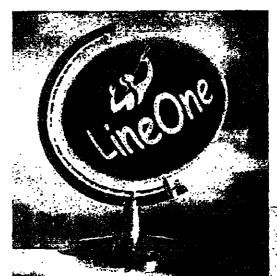


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Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, at the Tories' first election press conference in Edinburgh yesterday

Forsyth fails to bring strife and scandal under control

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

considerably for the

George Robertson, Shadow

Scottish Secretary, claimed

that Mr Forsyth seemed not to

notice or care about an "un-

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campaign."

SIR MICHAEL PORSYTH. the Scottish Secretary, failed yesterday to put an end to the allegations of scandal, infighting and sleaze which are swamping the Scottish Tory Party. Yesterday's press conference in Edinburgh was his first public appearance since the resignation of two leading Tories over allegations of sexual impropriety.

He tried to avoid questions about Alian Stewart, MP for Eastwood, and Sir Michael Hirst, the party chairman in Scotland, who has admitted a concentrating on the issue of jobs and inward investment.

party. Why on earth is he suddenly reappearing like the Phantom of the Opera but The Scottish Secretary admitted that Sir Michael's resignation was "a blow". He said: "Of course it is a serback. dodging responsibility for anything going on in his own Michael Hirst was a key political party?" he asked. element in our campaign, a Mr Forsyth said the voters formidable campaigner and someone I was relying on

were more concerned with issues such as employment. "Scotland has an outstanding record in creating jobs. Since 1991 more than 50,000 new jobs have been created here through inward investment. New jobs and falling employ-ment doesn't happen by acci-dent. Under the Tories,

future prosperity is at risk

Yesterday First Direct, the telephone banking organisation, made a long-awaited announcement of the creation of 5,000 jobs in Hamilton. Lanarkshire. Mr Forsyth welcomed the news but the opposition parties said that the Tories had manipulated the information for their own political ends.

The Scottish National Party claimed that employment in Scotland has fallen by 1,000 since 1992, compared with a rise of more than half a

Untimely absence allowed brushfire to become a blaze

Rarely can a party's role, tried to steer the discussion back to weighty matters such as inward investment grim an atmosphere. The of the four senior Scottish Tories facing the press yesterday said far more about the wretched state of their campaign than anything that was announced.

Dealing with the brushlire of a political scandal must be the supreme test of any party. The best, perhaps the only, tactic is to confront it squarely and try to beat it out before it becomes an inferno. That is what John Major chose to do at his press conference. That is what Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, chose not to do at his. There is no question as to who came off worst. Hence the rancour.

Annabel Goldie, the Tories' new chairman in Scotland. flanking Mr Forsyth; Jackson Carlaw, her deputy; and George Kynoch, the Scottish Office industry minister, attempted in vain to curtail questions about the unexplained resignation last week of Sir Michael Hirst, Ms Goldie's predecessor. The campaign issues, she said, were more important than the reasons for his departure. She would not dwell on it further . . . it was not relevant

.. she would take no more Mr Forsyth, playing an unaccustomed supporting and the dangers of Labour's "tartan tax". He got nowhere. His own unexplained absence from the hustings as the scandal gathered pace was almost as intriguing to the media as the resignation itself. What, questioners wanted to know, had this renowned combatant been doing between Thursday evening, when Sir Michael announced his decision to stand down, and yesterday when

Mr Forsyth finally appeared in public? His explanation was that he had been attending to Cabinet committee business in London, helping to finalise the Scottish Conservative manifesto and "topping and tailing" his election address to the voters of Stirling. This, he assured us, was very timeconsuming. Furthermore, he and George Robertson, the Shadow Scottish Secretary. had agreed that they would hold off launching their campaigns until this week so that they could recover from their arduous parliamentary duties. As for the reasons behind Sir Michael's resignation,

they were purely personal. He had known nothing about the matter until he was phoned by Ms Goldie in the early hours of Saturday. The picture of an officebound Forsyth, gagged by

MAGNUS LINKLATER

polite convention and constituency bureaucracy while his party tore itself apart, is an intriguing one. He may well have convinced himself that it was better to hold back from the fray until the worst of the allegations were out of the way, but if that was the case, things have not worked out according to plan. Yesterday. instead of storming back to regain the high ground, a testy Mr Forsyth found himself constantly having to ad-

dress internal party ructions. The more he talked of "silly stories" got up by the media. the more he was pressed for explanations about who had leaked those stories. The most he would concede about the events of the past week was that things "could have been planned better". Yet the crisis

facing the Conservative organisation in Scotland goes deeper than Sir Michael's unexplained resignation. What emerged over the weekend was extraordinary evidence of the disaffection. within the party hierarchy. Some of the most damaging, and so far unproven, allegations about their former chairman's private life have come from his own colleagues who have spent much of the past few days leaking details to journalists.

The fact that on the eve of a general election senior Tories in Scotland should be more interested in settling old scores than holding the party together is remarkable. Told about the news of Sir Michael's resignation, one named party member, was quoted over the weekend as saying: "Good. I'm glad to hear it ... Another commented: "It's the best news since Margaret Thatcher won in 1979."

The most, however, that anyone on the platform would admit to yesterday, was that there might be some malcontents within the party - not enough, according to Ms Goldie, to justify an inquiry or indeed any further, action. It was, said Mr Forsyth a set-back nothing further. With that proceedings were brought abruptly, and ill temperedly, to a close. And that was just day one.



Gunmen cheered at Sinn Fein rally

By Nicholas Watt

MASKED IRA terrorists brandishing automatic weapons appeared at a Sinn Fein rally in north Belfast yesterday in a pre-election show of

Two men, holding an AK47 assault rifle and an Uzi submachinegun, strode into the crowd in the republicant Ardoyne area, their weapons aloft. To cheers and clapping from up to 1,000 supporters; the terrorists walked through the crowd waving their guns in the air before disappearing down a back street.

Francie Molloy, a leading Sinn Fein member and a councillor in Dungannon in Co Tyrone, welcomed the armed men. To loud cheers from the crowd, he said: "It was fitting that we had the presence of the Irish Republican Army here on our streets — the defenders of our community over the last 25 to 30 years."

in one of the most hardline speeches in months by a Sinn Fein leader. Mr Molloy said

NORTHERN -TRELAND

that the IRA would start a wave of violence if Britain refused to negotiate with republicans. The options are there for the British, either conflict or negotiations . . . If it is to be the road to conflict, then the volunteers of Oglaigh na hEireann will defeat the British Government."

Mr Molloy warned Mo Mowlam, Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, that she would have to produce more than "fancy words" if Labour won the election. He was referring to her comments at the weekend that a Labour government might allow Sinn Fein to join the Stormont talks after the election if the IRA declared a ceasefire now.

His speech was designed by the Sinn Fein leadership to balance conciliatory remarks in recent days by Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness. They have both hinted that the IRA might renew its ceaselire if the next government allows them to join talks soon after a truce.

Sinn Fein will contest 16 of the 18 parliamentary seats in Northern Ireland. Mr Adams, the party president, is widely tipped to win back his former seat of West Belfast.

Swampy in **April** Fool claim

Daniel Hóoper, alias port protester, sought more publicity yesterday by claim-ing that his intention to stand for Parliament was an April Fool. Swampy, 23, had said he would contest Blackley against the Labour candidate Graham Stringer, chairman of Manchester airport. Organises behind his elec-tion manifests had insisted,

in answer to repeated questions, that the announcement was genuine. Later yesterday the umbrella group which speaks for the protesters snga candidate after all.

YOWN L

Road to gridlock

The RAC warned travelling political campaigners that they risked being caught in traffic jams in at least 25 marginal constituencies. Edmund King, the RAC's head of campaigns, said: "We are today issuing an election challenge to the main political parties to explain how they will keep Britain moving into the next century."

Forest pledge

Labour has promised to give special planning protection to the Forest of Dean in Głoucestershire. Frank Dobson, the Shadow Environment Secretary, said it was vulnerable to quarrying and open-cast mining and would receive a protected status appropriate to its history and character, after consu with local people.

Meeting on MP

Piers Merchant, the MP accused of having an affair with a nightclub hostess, is expected to survive a confrontation with his local support ers tonight and be adopted as Tory candidate for Beckenham. Mr Merchant is likely to face at least 300 members of the Beckenham Conservative Association to

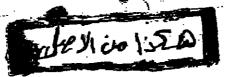
Cook's twin help

Robin Cook, the Shadov Foreign Secretary, launched his re-election campaign in his West Lothian constituency with the help of 18-year-old twins, Eilidh and Kate Mac-Donald. A high proportion of voters in the area are under 30. Mr Cook said: "By using their vote young people can make their voices heard Photograph, page 24 at the highest level."

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Cryer's death leaves widow holding the political baby

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

LIKE many other women with grown-up working daughters, Ann Cryer was looking after her grandson yesterday. However, she had other things on her mind.

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Med Note Block

There were meetings with Labour Party workers, who were busy moving her campaign headquarters into new premises after a fire at the old offices last week. Then she had to escort Harriet Harman, Labour's Shadow Social Security Secretary, on a visit to a nursery school. In the afternoon she was meeting a stonemason to discuss the wording for a plaque on her

husband's grave. Bob Cryer, the former MP for Bradford South who was killed in a car crash less than three years ago, was previously the member for Keighley. which he represented for nine years. Now his widow is standing for the west Yorkshire seat, which includes the Brontë tourist town of Haworth and nearby Ilkley.

Mrs Cryer is seeking to oust Gary Waller, the Conserva-

3,500. A swing of slightly more than 3 per cent would be enough, so it is a seat that Labour has to win if it is to get a majority. However, the local party has had an uneasy time.

The decision of the national party to impose a women-only shortlist was opposed by many. Mrs Cryer, 57, was approached to stand as a unity candidate who was acceptable to those alarmed by the prospect of a sharp-suited new

LABOUR

Labourite fighting the seat. Mrs Cryer, who had worked as her husband's assistant. had been approached to fight the by-election in Bradford South after his death. "It was too soon. I wasn't up to it," she said. "When they asked me to stand in Keighley, I had to think about it for five weeks." Eventually it was Tony Benn who persuaded her. He

said:, "You can't remain a widow all your life." Her husband had been tive, who has a majority of hugely popular in the constitu-

ency, but lost his seat when a boundary change brought in Tory voters from Ilkley. Her image as a grandmother of five is also valuable. The twoyear-old with her yesterday was called Robert because he was born two months after his grandfather's death.

But while Mrs Cryer insists that Keighley is the only seat for which she would stand, it is clear that politics is a family love affair. Her son, John, is standing as a Labour candidate in Hornchurch against the Tory Robin Squire, who

has a 9,000 majority.

She recoils when the word dynasty is mentioned. "I'm not going to be a Bob Cryer mark two," she insisted. "We shared a great many interests but there are other things that I am probably better informed about and more interested in than my husband was, such as early years education and the benefits system."

Nevertheless, it is impossible not to see in her many of the political instincts of her late husband, to whom she refers as "the lifetime rebel".



Well on 15ED

The late Bob Cryer with his wife, Ann

She uses the word "bolshie" admiringly about young Asian women in her constituency who have formed their own women's group and are finding jobs.

Mr Waller, who has done

better than the national average in retaining the vote in previous elections, is planning to campaign hard on his record. He says he has been building bridges with local ethnic groups and opposing

trolled Bradford council, such as new housing developments which he says are unpopular. However, he is also hoping for a marked improvement in the party's national popularity.

"Local factors are significant, but there's a limit to the extent that they can come into play," he said. "I am looking for a national shift in the opinion polls in order to have a good chance."

If Mrs Cryer wins, she will not be the first wife to have pulled on her husband's political boots. Irene Adams, whose husband Allen died of a heart attack before the 1992 election, won his Paisley North seat for Labour. Llinos Golding took her husband John's place when he stepped down as Labour MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme to become general secretary of the National Communications

With a son who is also a bright Labour prospect and grandchildren already making the loudest noises on the campaign trail, Ann is unlikely to be the last Cryer in Westminster.



Ann Cryer with her grandson Robert, two, at a nursery in Keighley yesterday



Ashdown takes a swipe at Punch and **Judy politics**

By Polly Newton, political reporter

JOHN MAJOR and Tony five, six and seven, and said Blair were branded the Punch and Judy of politics by Paddy Ashdown yesterday as the Liberal Democrats sought to shift sleaze from the top of the election

Mr Ashdown, speaking at the start of his party's full-scale campaign, argued that voters were fed up with confrontational politics. He challenged his opponents to focus on "the big issues" of education and the health

service. The Liberal Democrats began their first earlymorning press conference of the campaign with a short film featuring caricature puppets of Mr Blair and Mr Major beating each

JEFAL : DEMOCRATS

other with sticks in a Punc hand Judy hut. In squeaky voices, each puppet protested that he had thought of a particular policy first and insisted he would implement it before the other. Later, Mr Ashdown unveiled a billboard poster in London on the same theme.

He said the Liberal Democrats wanted an honest and positive campaign". He accused Labour of offering a "false prospectus" on education by claiming standards could be improved without more spending.

Mr Ashdown said that Labour's planned abolition of the assisted places scheme — which gives some children government financial help to attend private schools — would raise only £150 million. After three years that would have reduced class sizes by only

ene pupil. The claim was later denied by Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, who said that the Liberal Democrats were "absolutely wrong". Mr Brown insisted that Labour was determined "over time" to cut class sizes for children aged really felt.

the amount of money the party could recoup by abol-ishing assisted places had been confirmed by independent experts from the National Foundation for Educational Research.

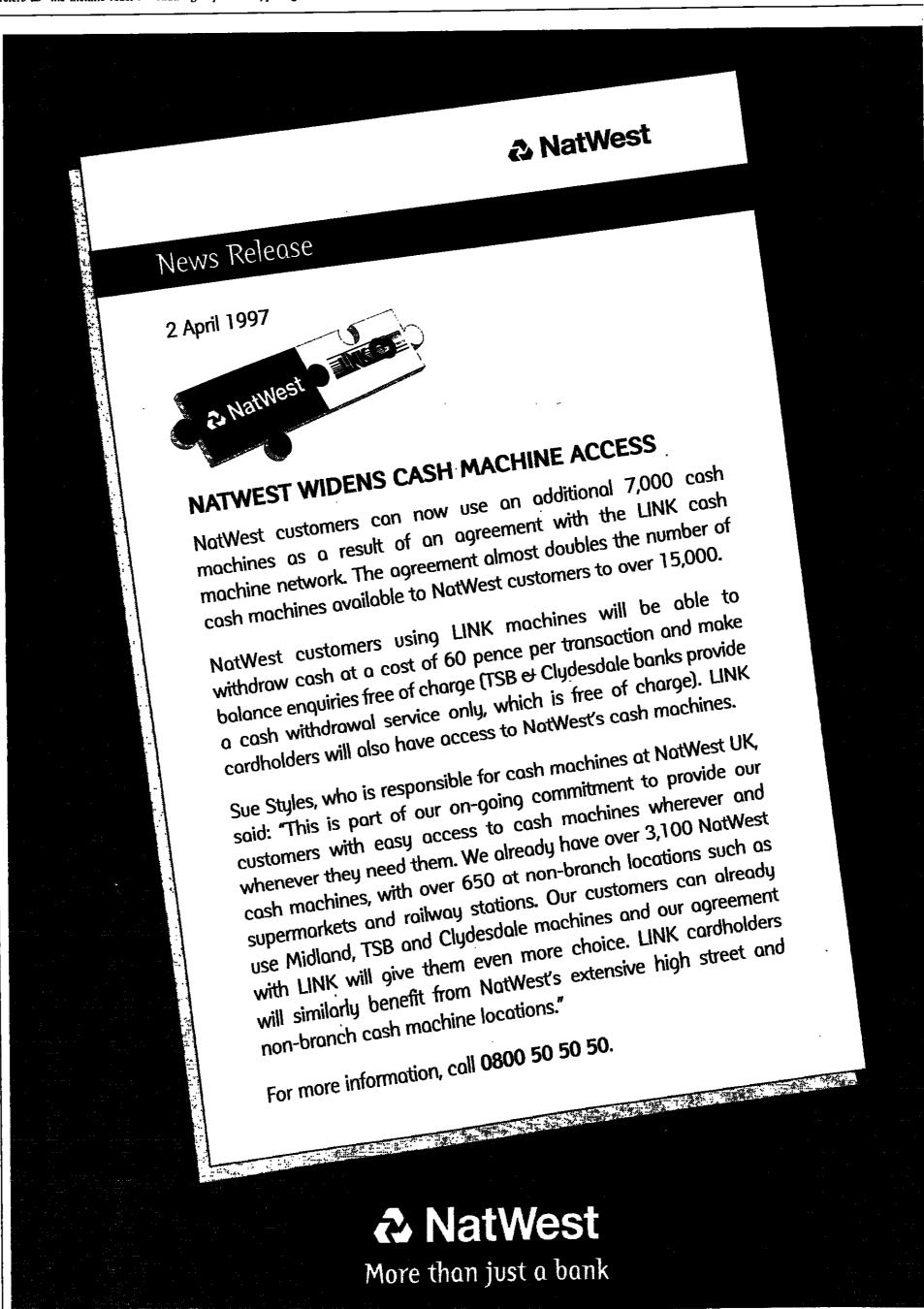
The Liberal Democrats' manifesto, to be published on Friday, will promise that the party would put Ip on the basic rate of income tax to allow an investment of at least £2 billion a year in education. Mr Ashdown said: "Only by investing more in books and equipment, cutting class sizes and providing nursery education can we give our children the best possible start in

No party should make promises without explaining how they would be paid for. People are right to be angry that the Conservatives promised tax cuts year on year and then brought in 22 tax rises, including VAT on domestic fuel. This must not happen again."

Pressed on the party's plans for the Tatton constituency of Neil Hamilton, who is alleged to have taken payments in return for asking parliamentary questions, Mr Ashdown would say only that there was still "one scene in this unpleasant drama which is yet to be played out" - the verdict of the Tatton constituency

party.
"The right thing now is to get back to the big issues in this campaign. I am really worried that we can get through four weeks of campaign talking about nothing but sleaze. It's our intention to move things on to other issues."

Lord Holme of Cheltenham, the Liberal Democrats' election campaign director, denied that the Punch and Judy pupper show was the kind of negative campaigning for which the party has criticised its opponents. He said that it was a humorous representation of what many voters



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Coverage: four pilot schemes to be widened this month to all fouryear-olds whose parents

Method of payment: a voucher for £1,100 given

to parents, who pass them to nurseries, which cash them via a private company. Complicated financial transaction between local and central government for places at LEA schools.

Organisation: parents apply to nurseries. Assumed that more places will spring up to meet demand.

Attitude to vouchers: encourage diversity of provision and create more parental power and involvement.

Money promised: £185 million a year on top of existing £565 million LEA spending.

LABOUR



Coverage: all four-yearolds whose parents want it, within 18 months of winning power. Provision for three-year-olds "as resources allow".

Method of payment central government would give the money to authorities, who would provide places in nursery schools and reception classes and buy places in private and voluntary nurseries and playgroups. No topping up fees in expensive private schools.

Organisation: LEAs would run forums in partnership with private and voluntary sectors to assess and meet local demand.

Attitude to vouchers: parents in receipt of them would have them honoured. Thereafter they would be scrapped.

Money promised: same as Tories.

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS



aged 3 or 4 whose parents want it. Majority of programme implemented in one Parliament.

Method of payment: centrai government would give money to authorities, which would decide how to meet the commitment.

Organisation: local education authorities would work with private and voluntary sectors, but the methods would vary from one authority to another.

Attitude to vouchers: "an underfunded gimmick". They would be abolished and replaced by government grant as soon as

Money promised: about £800 million: early education will have "first claim" on the extra £2 billion for education.

13. Nursery education

Small people are a big issue

have been the most neglected period in British children's educational life. Spending on them accounts for just 2 per cent of the national education budget. Although compulsory schooling does not start until a child is five, most parents want their children to receive some form of nursery education at four, and sometimes three. Yet there is a lower percentage of three and four-year-olds attending any form of publicly funded nursery in Britain than in most EU countries.

Nobody doubts, however, that nursery provision is a good thing. One recent British study found that nursery edu-cated children were still performing four to five months ahead at the age of seven.

Studies in America have found even more dramatic The High/Scope project in Michigan in the 1960s took 123 poor black children and gave half of them high-quality nursery education with support for parents. The other half had none. They were assessed through school, then at 19 and again at 27.

The girls who went to nursery school were more than twice as likely to graduate from high school, five times as likely to be married by the age of 27, much less likely to have a teenage pregnancy, and three times more likely to be earning more than \$1,000 a month. The boys were four times less likely to have been regularly in trouble with the police and twice as likely to own their homes. Taking into account the costs of welfare, the criminal justice system and so on. every \$1,000 spent on this nursery education returned \$7,160 to the taxpayer.

So why has nursery education been neglected for so long? After all, back in 1972, Margaret Thatcher, then Education Secretary, said that all three and four-year-olds should have a place at nursery school. Only a quarter of a century later are we about to move to universal provision for fouryear-olds. One answer is that it costs money and the payback



Head start: children who go to nursery are months ahead by the age of seven

this is seen as primarily a women's issue and has tended to be dismissed by the political establishment

But as report after report in the late 1980s and early 1990s showed the importance of expanding this area of education, John Major's Government gradually came round to its merits. At the end of 1993, the Prime Minister acknowledged universal nursery education as an ambition, but only "when we have the resources". Now it will finally come to fruition, for four-year-olds at least, whichever party wins power.

The political argument centres now not on whether, but how, such provision should be made. After some disagreement between Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, and John Major, it was decided that parents of four-yearolds should be offered a voucher worth £1,100 a year, which they could exchange for a place in a local authority nursery, a reception class, a private nursery school of a

is long-term. Another is that operated in four pilot areas for year and is due to go uionwide this week.

Vouchers have the advantage of encouraging a diversity of provision, including voluntary and private. They also have two unavoidable disadvantages. Their bureaucracy is costly (estimated at £20 million a year once they go nation-wide) and they subsidise parents who were already happy to pay private nursery fees.

he biggest problem with the pilot projects, though, is one that could be remedied, albeit at higher cost. As a recent report from the Commons Education Select Committee pointed out: "One of the main effects of the scheme appears to be that more young four-year-olds are likely to attend reception class. We believe this is quite wrong."

Reception classes are the first class in a primary school, usually attended by five-yearolds or "rising-fives", who are within three months of their playgroup. This scheme has fifth birthday. In private or

voluntary pre-schooling, the Children Act requires at least one member of staff for every eight three and four-year-olds. At state nursery schools, there is usually one staff member per 13 children. But reception classes can have as many as 35

This is bad for children so young. Emotionally they can find it hard to cope. Educationally, studies show that attending reception class at four adds nothing to their future performance. Yet, as the select committee found, many primary schools in the pilot areas have been telling parents that if they do not send their children to reception classes, they will not gain a place at five. The result of this pressure is that some voluntary playgroups may have to close. As the report points out: "If this were to happen, parental choice could be limited. This was not the reason for which the voucher scheme was introduced." If the Conservatives win, they could solve this problem by stipulat-ing that vouchers will be valid only for classes in which the

staff/pupil ratio is no greater than 1:13. This would, however, be expensive, which is why Labour is no more prepared to guarantee that its nursery provision would not

be in reception classes. Labour promises a place for all four-year-olds within 18 months of taking power, organised through "partner-ship agreements" between local education authorities (LEAs) and the private and voluntary sectors. The LEAs would buy places in outside nurseries on behalf of local four-year-olds but parents would not be able to top up the lees at more expensive nursery schools as they can with vouchers. So presumably only those private schools offering places costing no more than about £1,100 a year would be eligible — given that Labour is offering no more money than the Tories.

In time, the party hopes to provide places for all threeyear-olds too, but the aim is hedged with all the usual when resources are available constraints. In the meantime, it promises to set up 25 pilot "early excellence centres", which will combine childcare and nursery education, the childcare element being paid for by parents who can afford it. Most learned studies on nursery education recommend this combination as the most promising approach - but at the moment the plans are very

small-scale. Only the Liberal Democrats promise nursery education for all three and four-year-olds whose parents want it. And they would allow four-year-old entry into reception classes only in smaller classes and where this does not undermine existing nursery educa-tion. The Lib Dems are also the only party prepared to put their money where their policy is. Of the £2 billion they have earmarked for education from adding a penny to the basic rate of income tax, early years education would have "the ·first claim".

> Monday: Britain's place in the world

"Nursery vouchers give parents a real choice by placing purchasing power in their hands. The success of the scheme shows the critics were wrong."

Gillian Shephard, Education Secretary "I know that Gillian Shephard believes in nursery education. I know that she doesn't believe in vouchers. We all love Gillian Shephard, but if you don't win the battles you are of no use."

David Blunkett, Shadow Education Secretary

"It's a cash-for-votes bribe. Vouchers drop through letterboxes before the election. Many will find there's nowhere to redeem them because vouchers can't ensure the rapid provision of buildings,

Don Foster, Lib-Dem education spokesman

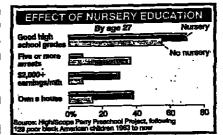
"For too long the early years of a child's iffe have been seen as the private concern of the parents. The State has intervened only at points of crisis when a child was thought to be at risk."

Margaret Hodge: Labour education spokeswoman "I would like to go down in history as the

Education Secretary who introduced universal nursery education."

Margaret Thatcher, 1972 "Nursery education for all isn't realistic." Kenneth Clarke, 1991

"If you have got to make a choice between good nursery schools and a good university then I would advise any country to fund the nursery school." Christopher Ball, director of learning at



☐ Forty-six per cent of mothers say they do not have the nursery school or day nursery provision they want, according to

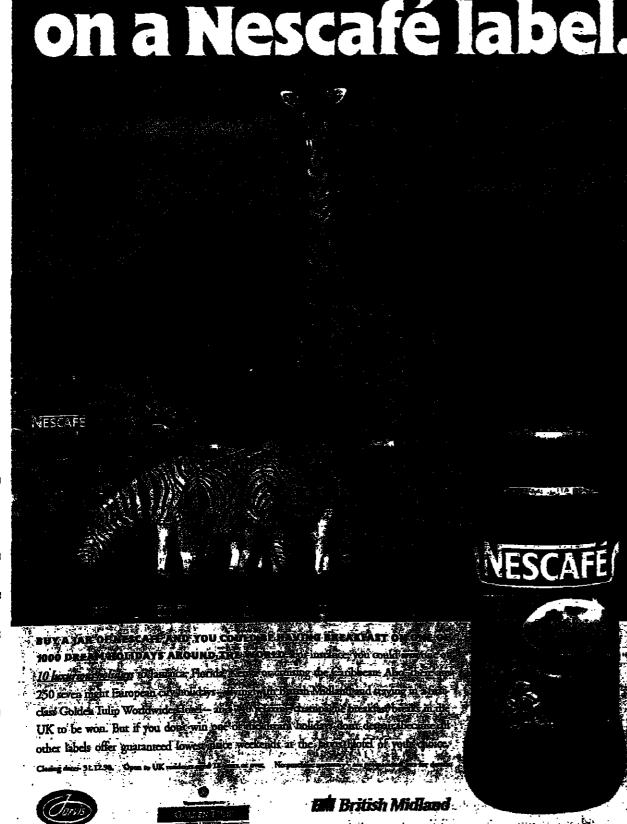
☐ Provision of free local-authority places depends markedly on where children live, according to the Audit Commission. In some authorities, about a quarter of three and four-year-olds are given a place; in others, the figure is over 90 per cent.

Playgroups have the highest number of children attending, and day nurseries the lowest. Playgroups are more popular in rural areas than in towns and cities.

☐ Research by Newcastle University found that pupils with pre-school statication score significantly higher on entry to primary school than those without, even if they have attended ponly

Local authorities in England and Wales: spend about £1.45 billion a year on pre-school education and care. In the private and voluntary sector, patents spend about £1.3 billion a year.

Safari in Kenya on a Nescafé label.



Sleaze claims are too sticky to allow the Tories a fresh start to Mr Heseltine. I knew that if

he Tories tried to draw a line yesterday under their self-destructive, disastrous first fortnight of the general election campaign. Their theory was give journalists the chance to get the "sleaze" virus out of their system by putting questions on the issue to John Major, and today the party could make a fresh start with the launch of its election manifesto. The Tories may, indeed should, be given a clear run for their manifesto, but the "sleaze" story will not disappear as simply as that.

Mr Major's attempt to take the high ground was unconvincing. Until Monday, Tory officials had been briefing against Neil Hamilton and Piers Merchant, and doing their utmost to persuade the two MPs to follow the example of Tim Smith and stand down. So it was a bit rich of Mr Major to stand back and say that nothing has been proved and that it was all right for the MPs who have protested their innocence to stand, with the charges being considered after the election. Of course, natural justice

Major is right to give warning

against a "witch-hunt" men-tality. The press pack in a fit of self-righteousness, baying for the blood of some hapless MP, is unpleasant. But there is a big distinction between Mr Merchant, or for that matter Sir Michael Hirst, and Mr Hamilton and other former Al Fayed cheerleaders. Mr Merchant has been a fool, and if his local Tories accept his word, that is up to them and the voters of Beckenham. My hunch is that the swing against him will not be that much higher than in surrounding Tory seats. The British public is less priggish

than many tabloids believe. But Mr Hamilton is no fool, nor is he merely an innocent victim. Of course, he deserves his chance to answer allegations about receiving cash from Mohamed Al Fayed, which he has firmly denied. Sir Gordon Downey will have to adjudicate. But this is not the whole story.

Even leaving aside whether certain payments in 1988-89 should have been disclosed under the interpretation of the rules on Members' interests at the time, it is questionable whether any MP should accept, indeed eagerly seek, hos-



PETER RIDDELL

pitality on the scale that Mr Hamilton and his wife en-joyed from Mr Al Fayed. Mr Hamilton's letter to The

Times on Saturday was less than frank. He says he is "satisfied in his own mind that there was no deliberate misleading" of Michael Heseltine over his relationship with lan Greer, the lobbyist who had acted for Mr Al Fayed. However, according to the transcript of his questioning at the Downey inquiry, Mr Hamilton said: "I did not mention the commis-sion payments when I spoke

there were to be another cause for adverse media comment against me ... it could be used as very big stick with which to beat me and to cause may resignation to take place." Moreover, Mr Hamilton denies any suggestion of im-propriety or fraud over his tax

returns. But the extract in The Guardian suggests that the MP's tax return for 1988-89 included as a deductible expense the cost of a flight which had been paid not by him but by Mr Greer. His reported comment that his accountant prepares his tax returns is llimsy: a taxpayer is legally responsible for his returns.

It is all very well for Mr Hamilton to protest against 'selective leaking". Even if the cash-for-questions charges are put to one side, Mr Hamilton's other conduct, revealed if not publicly ackowledged, casts doubt on his suitability as an MP. Since the Tory leadership has stepped back. it is now a matter for the voters of Tatton. For them, "sleaze" remains an issue, particularly if the search by Labour and the Liberal Democrats for a credible "anti-corruption" candidate succeeds.

SAID ON THE STUMP

The whole of Mr Blair's strategy in creating the boneless wonder that calls itself new Labour is to reassure the electorate in its illusion. But illusion it remains . . . Imitation, someone said, is the sincerest form of flattery. But imitations Baroness Thatcher, writing in The Daily Telegraph

Can you imagine the situation where Margaret Thatcher would be saying to people, "There are certain MPs I would like not to stand as a candidate but I am sorry there is nothing I can do about it." My case rests. Tony Blair on John Major at

morning press conference L'do not know what you may know that I don't. But I don't

know all the circumstances. John Major, questioned on Neil Hamilton at mouning press conference

am not going to bow to the witch-hunt mentality John Major at press conference

anua have planned it better: Michael Forsyth on the start of the Scottish Tories' campaign

Kenneth Clarke is supported by a dwindling band of Tory

MPs who also value old Tory traditions. The wagons are circled. It's Clarke's last stand

Alan Howarth, the former Tory, sharing an election platform with Tony Blair

We are not promising a revolution but we are promising a fresh start for Britain.

Tony Blair in Northampton

Turkeys may not vote for Christmas but chickens apparently run away from broadcasts.

John Major, renewing his challenge to Tony Blair for a TV debate

There is no question of a single currency being imposed on the country, slunk through under cover or by a side wind Tony Blair in speech to businessmen in Derby

She's a pretty good kisser.

Chris Lacey, a young Northampton voter, after pecking Cherie Blair

Douglas Hogg's cull has been a catalogue of chaos.

Dr Gavin Strang, Shadow Agriculture Minister, campaigning in Chester

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 2 1997

Netanyahu blames Egypt for fanning flames of militancy

ISRAEL'S embattled Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, angrily accused Egypt last night of "fanning the flames of radicalism" in the Middle East and of helping to push the peace process to its present state of crisis.

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at risk."

Referring to the recent upsurge of violence that has left more than 500 Palestinians injured and to the Arab League's determination to turn back the diplomatic clock and isolate Israel, the Prime Minister said: "It seems to me that Egypt is playing a very unfortunate part in all this by fanning the flames of radicalism rather than inducing a more moderate position. This idea of reactivating the Arab boycott is a key example."

Mr Netanyahu, 47, hit back hard at suggestions made hours earlier in an Israeli newspaper by President Mubarak of Egypt that Israel had brought peacemaking to its lowest point since President Sadat first landed in Jerusalem 20 years ago.

Mr Netanyahu would not be drawn into similar criticisms of Jordan or of King Hussein, whose letter accusing him of pushing the region towards "an abyss of bloodshed" has been made public. He hinted that the King had adopted a different approach in their recent private conversation after King Hussein paid his respects to the mourning families of seven Israeli schoolgirls killed by a Jordani-

Mr Netanyahu was scathing about the approach adopted by the semi-official Egyptian media which he said was



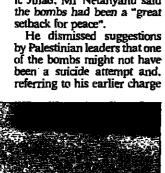
Christopher Walker, in an interview with Binyamin Netanyahu, finds the Israeli leader relishing his isolation

"the most anti-Semitic in the world" and he ridiculed attempts by the Egyptian leader to argue that he had no control over its content. He said that the peace process was threatened not by Israel, which he said was sticking to the 1993 Oslo peace accords, but by the indirect Palestinian encouragement of Islamic terror.

Speaking only hours after two more Palestinian suicide

6 If we halt housing projects in our own capital, we may as well shut the country 9

bombs had exploded in the Gaza Strip, both of which he said were planted not by Hamas, which planted last month's bomb in a Tei Aviv café, but by the smaller Islamic Jihad, Mr Netanyahu said setback for peace".



almost to relish Israel's interica 20 years ago.

Mr Netanyahu also ridiculed the suggestion that Israel might stop work at Har Homa as a condition for returning to the negotiating table. He accused the Palestintations among their people. "Jerusalem is the rock of our existence," he said. "If we were to halt housing projects in our own capital, we may as well shut down the country."

that Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, had recently given the "green light" to the resumption of Islamic terrorism, he said that the Gaza blasts showed "that the traffic lights have not been changed".

Mr Netanyahu called Islamic Jihad and Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, "an obedient opposition" which acted as proxy for such Palestine Liberation Organisation movements as Mr Arafat's Fatah faction, which had overtly dropped their earlier espousal of terrorism as a weapon. "The whole idea with terrorism is that you cannot fight it physically if you do not fight it morally," the Prime Minister said. "That is to denounce it as a weapon of anything."

During the 45-minute interview he made clear that Israel would remain unshakeable in its refusal to resume peace talks until terrorism was abandoned, although he was less specific on how Mr Arafat could prove to Israel that this side of the peace bargain had been kept.

Looking unruffled by the increasing tide of international condemnation of Israel's stance over building houses for 32,000 Jews on land at Har Homa in occupied east Jerusalem. Mr Netanyahu said he had been "aghast" at world reaction to the Israeli action.

He made clear again and again that it was Mr Arafat's 'encouragement of terrorism" that had threatened to end the peace process. He said that talks would not resume until the PLO had showed a new determination to deal with it.

Far from showing any signs of compromise, Mr Netanyahu appeared more confident of his position than during previous interviews. He appeared national stance as a lone nation with many enemies, oecially in the media, and likened sympathy for the Palestinians with that accorded to Cuba in its conflict with Amer-

ians of spreading false expec-



Suicide bomber targets school bus

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

THIRTY seconds may have saved the lives of a group of Israeli children from the first of two apparent suicide bombing attacks in the Gaza Strip yesterday. The children were on board

a bus waiting to depart from the Jewish settlement of Netzarim when a huge explosion was heard outside the heavily guarded compound. Israeli military officials

believe the bomber detonated himself prematurely, out of fear of detection. Half a minute later and the explosion could have taken the lives of the schoolchildren. One of the residents of

Netzarim. Moshe Hoshen. said: "The school bus, which leaves every morning at 7 and is escorted by two [army] Jeeps ... was about to leave the settlement. And at 7 o'clock precisely we all heard a large explosion ... the bus driver received instructions to go back into the settlement." The bomber "probably wanted to iump at the bus", he said.

The second blast occurred a short while later outside the Jewish settlement of Kfar Darom, ripping off the door of a passing Arab taxi.

Witnesses said the bomber was riding on a donkey cart and blew himself up when he was between a taxi and an Israeli army Jeep. Five Palestinians were wounded in the blast, one seriously. Both hombers were reportedly wearing Palestinian police

But an aide to Yasser Arafat, President of the Palestinian Authority, said the Arab killed in the second blast had died from an explosive charge thrown at him from an Israeli army Jeep. In Kfar Darom area, an Israeli military Jeep hurled a grenade or a bomb at [Palestinian] passers-by, killing one and wounding others. This is information that we have collected from

tary-General of the Palestinian Cabinet. The last time that a coordinated suicide bombing attack occurred in the Gaza Strip, the Islamic Jihad

passers-by and victims," said

Ahmed Abdel-Rahman, Secre-

claimed responsibility. But the organisation made no comment yesterday.

In a highly unusual develooment, another Islamic organisation, Hamas, which has also admitted responsiblity for such attacks in the past denied any involvement in the bombings. The organisation said Israel was behind the attacks. A Hamas official said: "This

has nothing to do with the Islamic movement or Hamas. This bombing was done by Israeli intelligence and its [Palestinian] collaborators in an attempt to create an international problem between the Islamic movement and the

Palestinian Authority. The latest explosions came

after nearly two weeks of clashes between Israeli security forces and Palestinians protesting against the construction of a new Jewish settlement in east Jerusalem. As the unrest flared again

yesterday, Israeli soldiers shot dead Kemal al-Zaro, a Palestinian youth, at a roadblock near the West Bank town of Hebron. The Israeli security forces also opened fire on Palestinian stone-throwers in Nablus, killing an off-duty Palestinian policeman. Haitha Mansour was hit in the eye by a bullet. Four other protesters



Kemal al-Zaro: killed in car at roadblock

PACKARD

Binyamin Netanyahu in the Knesset yesterday. He

denies that Israel is responsible for the present crisis

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Cyprus telly addicts lose link to Britain

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THOUSANDS of Britons in Cyprus were last night contemplating a future without Cilla Black, Jim Davidson and Mr Blobby after British Forces television began scrambling its signal to prevent shows reaching viewers not entitled to see them. Although they had been

forewarned, many pensioners and expatriates confessed that were upset. A widow in her 60s was planning to return to Britain to keep abreast of the goings-on in Coronation Street, while a bereft businessman said he would now have to buy a dog. The cultural umbilical cord

to Britain was cut first in Nicosia, the capital, where those frantically adjusting their sets to pick up children's programmes in the morning received sound but no vision. The signal returned by

Captain Sean Tully, spokesman for the British bases, said: "We're having a few technical difficulties, but the signal will definitely be encrypted in Nicosia by April Il and the rest of the island by the end of May."

had no desire to pull the plug on British Forces television. It was responding to pressure from local stations, struggling in a market with just over half a million viewers, which had bought the rights to broadcast live British premiership foot-

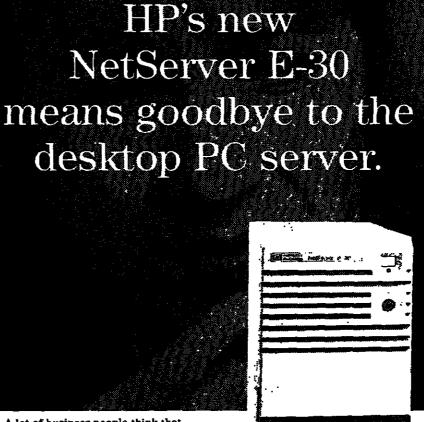
Forces television was allowed to show football provided it was available only to the bases and those serving with the United Nations in Nicosia. However, at least able to tune in to the station that broadcasts many of the popular programmes mixture of BBC and ITN.

The station first responded to legal threats by ditching Premier League football three years ago. "It's a shame because the station was our prime PR asset here." Captain Tully said,

Charlie Charalambous, the television critic on the Cyprus Mail, lamented: "Who's going to get excited about Spanish soaps, Greek melodramas and ministers telling porkies on the box?"

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Tougher US immigration law prompts illegal residents to tie the knot

FROM DAVID ADAMS

THOUSANDS of illegal immigrants in the United States, fearing that new laws will make it harder for them to remain in the country, are trying to shoot down the system with Cupid's arrow.

The number of immigrants flooding into marriage licence bureaux is soaring. In Miami, marriage applications have almost doubled, from 6,742 in the first three months of last year to almost

11,400 so far this year. There were ever, that getting married would more than 5,000 last month. Cities not help most illegal immigrants to with large migrant populations, such as New York and Houston. have reported similar increases.

"It's unbelievable," Roberto Reboso, the head of the Marriage Licencing Bureau in Miami, said. What's love got to do with it? Not a. lot, he said. Without a doubt it's got to do with the new law ... and people trying to get married to maintain their residence in the United States."

Immigration experts said, how-

dodge the new laws since marrying an American citizen only helped if the immigrant had legal status in the first place. The confusion, experts said, stemmed from new provisions aimed at tightening entry controls into the United States, and penalising people who

Staff at one courthouse here said that they had noticed longer queues each morning earlier this year. They also noticed the odd couples

overstayed.

swerable to the people, not an appointed official. Khalid

Anwar, the law adviser to the

Prime Minister, said the legis-

Mr Sharif because it feared

the country was being bank-

rupted by fraud and

Many of the new top soldiers in Pakistan are deter-mined to distance the army

from politics. The armed

forces would almost certainly

have been consulted before the

constitutional amendment

was put forward by Mr Sharif,

and it is a sign of their more

democratic approach that they

evidently raised no objection.

amendment to the constitution

under a bargain with politi-cians to end martial law. He

used it to sack Mohammad

Khan Junejo, his handpicked

Prime Minister, in 1988. Soon

afterwards Zia died, possibly

murdered, in a mysterious

The relic of martial law he

left behind has prevented Pa-

kistani democracy taking root,

and commentators described

the change as a defining

moment for the country as it

approaches the fiftieth anni-

versary of its creation. The

change also means the Prime

Minister will have to approve

the President's appointment of

The army has ruled Paki-

stan for half its life, but direct

military intervention has be-

come almost inconceivable.

The danger in scrapping the

presidential power to sack

leaders is that there is no

longer any ultimate sanction.

save for elections, to deal with

governments that allow politi-

cians to plunder the Exche-

quer, as Miss Bhutto allegedly did during her last tenure.

vincial governors.

aircraft crash

Zia introduced the eighth

mismanagement.

- young women paired with much older men. The staff said that last week a young woman had to help her doddering "groom" into the building. There are also cases where the women are old enough to be grandmothers of the men they are marrying. "We have marriages here where, when it comes to 'You may kiss the bride, the husband will say 'No Thanks!'," Mr Reboso

Standing in line to apply for a licence at a Miami courthouse, Marco Pineda, a 44-year-old car

sion to marry was laced with a strong dose of pragmatism. Although he is a legal resident, of 16 years standing, his would-be bride, Carmen Montoya, 46, is not.

"The law is very confusing," said Ms Montova, a house cleaner who came to the United States in 1983 from Guatemala. Her annual work permit expires in June and under the new laws she is not sure whether it would be renewed this time, "Marriage gives us a little extra hope," she said.

Fear has also spawned an illegal industry of marriage brokers who charge desperate clients \$5,000 (£3,145) or more to arrange matches. Carmen, a 45-year-old illegal immigrant from Peru, said she met her 66-year-old husband just before they married last week. She paid her husband \$2,500, plus \$300 to his sister for brokering the union. A second instalment, of at least \$2,500, will be due if and when she receives her residency papers. Under the arrangement he will

move into her flat later this week.

an event she now dreads. Experts have issued warnings that the consequences of a fraudulent marriage are severe, and include deportation and a life-time ban on re-entering the country.

☐ Washington: Six hours before the tough new immigration law was to go into effect, a federal judge granted a request to delay its implementation until Saturday. The judge ruled that the Administration had failed to give immigrants sufficient time to prepare for the sweeping changes. (Reuter)

Pakistan removes President's power to dismiss leaders

BY ZAHLD HUSSAIN IN KARACHI, AND CHRISTOPHER THOMAS, SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

PAKISTAN'S parliament yesterday stripped the President of his power to dismiss elected governments and dissolve the National Assembly. A constitutional amendment Bill, unanimously passed by both houses of parliament, also clipped the President's prerog-ative to appoint military chiefs and provincial governors.

The decision, which restores the supremacy of parliament, is a turning point for Pakistan's struggling democracy. Until now one of the biggest obstacles to democracy has been the President's provision. under which four elected governments were dismissed since the end of martial law in 1985. The measure was introduced by General Zia ul-Haq, the late dictator, to ensure that he could dismiss any Prime Minister who became troublesome or too independent.

Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister, elected in February with an overwhelming parliamentary majority, introduced the constitutional amendments to scrap the provision after consulting his Cabinet. President Leghari, who used the powers to sack Benazir Bhutto's Government last November on the ground of corruption, supported removal of the measure.

This is the greatest day for democracy," a visibly delighted Mr Sharif told supporters. He is now the most powerful Prime Minister since the end of martial law, with a two thirds parliamentary major-

ity, and is safe from dismissal. In 1993 he was sacked as Prime Minister by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on the grounds that his Government was incompetent and corrupt, although the Supreme Court restored him to power. He resigned immediately and lost the subsequent election.

Miss Bhutto was also dismissed by Mr Khan in 1990 for running a corrupt Govern-ment. Her Pakistan People's Party voted in favour of the change yesterday and Miss

6 Politicians of all parties hail this as the greatest day for democracy in Pakistan 9

Bhutto, whose party was crushed in elections in February by Mr Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League, congratulated the Prime Minister "for his bold move". She said it was a day when politicians should forget their differences.

Removal of the provision comes after years of power struggles between Presidents and Prime Ministers. Politicians from all parties, describing it as a historic day for democracy, declared that gov-



Benazir Bhutto with, right, Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister, and a member of his party after the vote

Protesters delay cult leader's burial By QUENTIN LETTS

THE FAMILY of Marshall Applewhite, leader of the sui-cidal San Diego "Heaven's Gate" cult, may face a hard time trying to find somewhere to bury him.
Applewhite, who inspired 38

lation marked an end to the followers to kill themselves in painful legacy of martial law California last week, was exand the start of an era belongpected to be buried next to his ing to the people.

The military, still a formidable force in Pakistani politics. father in a cemetery in San Antonio, Texas, but the cult leader's sister, Louise Winant, said that she had been advised that could lead to trouble. will no longer have access to the simple expedient of using the President to dismiss gov-ernments it does not like. The There have been pickets around the cemetery," she military was behind the dissaid. "The protesters have said missals of Miss Bhutto and

that his grave won't be safe." Mrs Winant had long lost touch with her odd brother before he encouraged his disciples to drink poison last week in order to keep an engage-ment with a UFO which they believed to be flying in the tail of the Hale-Bopp comet.

In San Diego yesterday, police started to pack up and conclude their investigation into the mass suicide. After initial fears that other groups of Applewhite followers elsewhere might follow suit, detectives linked to the case sought now to play down such sug-gestions. After interviewing former members of the cult group, police felt that the San Diego household was the only group over which Applewhite held sufficient sway.

Police technicians have so far resisted investigating in depth the computers which were found at the scene of the deaths, for fear of wiping out possible evidence.

The San Diego County Medical Examiner's Office said that eight of the men found dead at the cult's house had been surgically castrated, but that was not the cause of death. Sexual self-denial was a part of Applewhite's creed. It is not yet known where the castrations took place, as in normal circumstances a surgeon would balk at conducting such an operation.

Police also have yet to work out how the cult managed to obtain sufficient quantities of the phenobarbital which killed the first 37 cult members. The last two people to kill themselves did so using plastic bags after taking large doses



Villagers south of Calcutta with the "travelling Aids show" sponsored by the EU

EU helps to fight Indian Aids

FROM MICHAEL DYNES IN CALCUTTA

DISTRIBUTING free condoms in an impoverished one of the European Union's However, with an estimated three million cases of Aids in India, the programme has an urgency unmatched by any

Here in the dingy backstreets of Diamond Harbour, a fishing village south of Calcutta, EU officials have been supplying brothels with condoms for more than a year and teaching the prostitutes how to use them. Although prostitution is illegal, the 5,000

inhabitants of Diamond Har- up to 5,000 rupees (£90) a bour support about 15 brothels village in West Bengal is not and an estimated 200 full-time and 100 part-time prostitutes. It is impossible to gauge the effectiveness of the initiative.

which has so far cost the European taxpayer about £40,000. However, the giggling admission by Dipa, 25, a mother of two, that she would happily forget about a condom it is probably limited.

Working under false names and lying to their families about the source of their income, for a few short years these young women can earn month, for them a huge sum. officials responsible for the We cannot tell them to stop selling their sex because we cannot provide them with an alternative income."

Years after the developed world first sounded the alarm over the spread of Aids, the message is only just beginning to filter through to some rural communities. Rickshaw and bullock carts carry the message "Avoid Aids - use a condom" to what appears to be a largely indifferent public.

Russians **'building** nuclear shelters'

RUSSIA continues to build deep underground bunkers and tunnels so that Kremlin leaders can survive a nuclear attack and escape from Moscow, according to a leaked CIA report yesterday.

The costly projects include a secret underground railway line from Victory Park Station. on the Moscow Metro to President Yeltsin's dacha. 13 miles from the Kremlin, the report said.

A bunker for Russian leaders was said to be nearly complete at Voronovo, 46 miles south of Moscow, and a second bunker at Sharapovo. 34 miles from the capital, was described as having an underground railway running to it. Four bunker complexes within Moscow to house government leaders during a nuclear strike were being built or renovated. the report said

Construction was continuing on a "nuclear-survivable" command post at Kosvinsky mountain in the Urals, 850 miles east of Moscow, and satellite photographs of Yamantau mountain near the Urals town of Beloretsk. showed digging at a deep underground complex.

The underground railway would allow the rapid evacuation of leaders from Moscow. They would then be flown to back-up headquarters at Yamantau or Kosvinsky. The report said: "The command post at Kosvinsky appears to provide the Russians with the means to retaliate against a nuclear attack."

All these details appeared in The Washington Times. which is a frequent conduit for CIA estimates of continued Cold War skulduggery by America's former adversaries. comment, but someone in Washington's national security establishment had a motive for drawing attention

to the two-week-old report, said to be labelled "top secret". Outlays for the huge construction programme were said to be raising concerns in Washington about whether American aid to Russia was allowing Moscow to spend money on new strategic forces and the bomb-proof hideaways. Disclosure of the bunker network comes less than two weeks after Mr Yeltsin and President Clinton agreed in Helsinki to extend the deadline for Russia's compliance with nuclear arms cuts

because of costs. it could be argued that one reason why Russian leaders see no reduction of the nuclear threat is Nato's insistence on expanding to accommodate Moscow's former Iron Curtain allies. America's contingency bunkers have been largely abandoned and one is now a tourist attraction.

Quebec law will let language police give shopkeepers a tongue-lashing

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN MONTREAL

MONTREAL'S English-speaking shopkeepers are furious about new legislation in Quebec which will give the province's language police" far-reaching search-andenter powers to check that French is

The powers were described by opponents as "more extreme than of Nazi Germany

Bill 40 argued that it simply defended Quebec's partly French culture by setting up a com for the protection of the French

Supporters of the controversial

Bill 40, which is expected to pass into law this month, will allow Quebec government inspectors to time" and "examine any products or documents, make copies and take photographs". No warrant will be required and the searches may be conducted at a suspect's home if it doubles as a business address.

if shopkeepers display signs which are in English only they are liable to fines. French-only signs are permitted. When signs are in both languages, the words in

any police powers currently in place enter businesses "at any reasonable French must be bigger. The Office by opponents at C\$30 million (£13.5 and officials will be put at the use of in the Western world" and "worthy time" and "examine any products of the Langue Française has the job million). of enforcing the province's muchdisputed language laws designed to protect the use of French in the bilingual province. Anglophones allege that the laws have led to "bullying" of English-speaking. and particularly ethnic minority run, businesses.

The Office employs 217 people, with an annual budget estimated

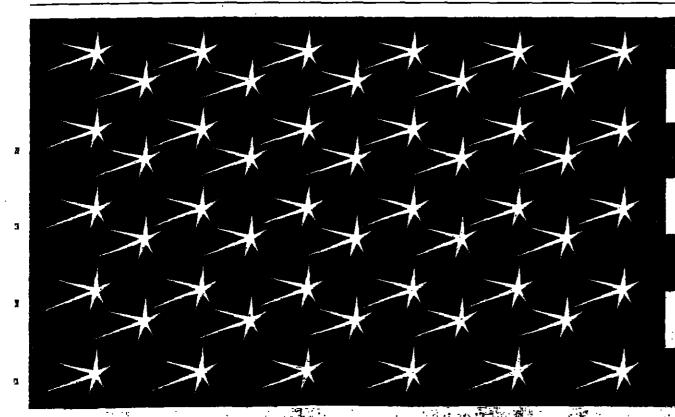
David Black, of the Quebec

Committee for Canada, a group which opposes the francophone desires for Quebec independence, said: "In its two decades of operation the OLF has managed to fine only 179 people, at about \$63 each. Why do they need so many

Under Bill 40, provincial funds

anyone reporting abuses of the language laws. "The Commission shall provide assistance to complainants in drawing up their complaints," the Bill proposes. In the past 30 years, when the

French-speaking majority has exercised increasing muscle, more than 500,000 Quebeckers emigrated, the highest population loss for a Cana-



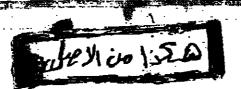
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Cinema's invasion irritates Tuscans

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BY RICHARD OWEN

RESIDENTS of Tuscany. far from being flattered by the use of Tuscan backdrops for hit films such as The English Patient, are becoming increasingly ir-ritated by the invasion of their "earthly paradise" by Anglo-Saxon film-

The English Patient, directed by Anthony Minghella and partly set in rural wartime Tuscany, is the latest in a long line of films which use the "Chiantishire" backdrop of cypresses, olive groves, terraced vineyards and terracotta villas. A special unit has been set up in Pisa to advise film-makers on which palazzo or piazza can be used.

La Repubblica said the trend had been started 12 years ago by the 1985 Merchant-Ivory produc-tion of E. M. Forster's A Room With a View. with its romantic shots of Florence and the surrounding countryside. However, it said that the vogue, which has coincided with the growing colonisation of Tuscany by British and other expatriates, was "getting out of hand".

Recent films which draw heavily on the rolling Tuscan landcape for their success include Bernardo Bertolucci's Stealing Beauty, Kenneth Branagh's version of Much Ado About Nothing and Jane Campion's film of Portrait of a Lady by Henry James.

Franco Zeffirelli is about to start shooting Tea with Mussolini near San Gimignano. Mel Gibson, meanwhile, is scouring for locations in and around Sienna for his next film.

Residents of Pienza, created by Pope Pius II in the 15th century, seem pleased with the image of their town in The English Patient. A spokesman for the town council said there had been "some differences" over "alterations" to the town's buildings for filming, but these disputes vere "forgotten". Instead the Pienza authorities are planning to convert the monastery of Sant' Anna in Camprena, in which Juliette Binoche tends to her dying patient, into a country hotel.



(A.C.)

175.5

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Binoche: adding to the focus on Tuscany

Bosnian orphans forced to return home

Tears shed as Germany rounds up the first of 325,000 rejected refugees

FROM DEBORAH COLLCUTT IN BONN

THE return yesterday of a Germany. Two babies were group of Bosnian orphans to their homeland signalled the official start of Germany's mass forced repatriation of hundreds of thousands of refugees. The 31 children, some as young as five, flew back to Sarajevo from Berlin after month-long delays during which the authorities and aid agencies argued about

their future. The children were granted a reprieve in October - a day before they were due to return to Sarajevo - after a German politician appealed for them to be spared a harsh winter in Bosnia and to allow time for the conditions of the Dayton peace accord to take full effect.

There were emotional scenes yesterday as the children were collected from orphanages around Magdeburg in eastern Germany, where they have lived since their dramatic evacuation from Sarajevo five years ago.

Orphanage staff and teachers from the local school and kindergarten wept as the children were rounded up and put on a bus for Berlin airport and a mid-morning flight.

In the past three weeks the children have been missing from normal lessons. Instead they have been receiving intensive tuition in their mother tongue and spending hours with child psychiatrists, in an effort to prepare them for the

The children were saved from the intense fighting of Sarajevo in 1992 by two local politicians and brought to

killed by sniper fire during the evacuation and the rescue mission was heavily criticised by the German Government and the United Nations refugee agency.

For the next three weeks the children will be cared for hy German aid workers in Sarajevo but, because of the chronic shortage of accommodation. there is concern that in the long term they could become homeless.

The same plight awaits all 200,000 refugees Germany in-tends to repatriate by the end of this year. It is part of a federal programme which Bavaria began before the winter. ignoring critics who claimed the state government's promise of sufficient accommodation and stability in the area was misleading.

Despite international condemnation, Bavaria has sent back dozens of refugees since the Government announced it would begin the "staggered" forced repatriation of the country's 325,000 Bosnians in

Germany accepted more refugees than all other European nations combined, which has taken an enormous roll on the cash-strapped federal and regional governments, especially Bavaria where about 65,000 Bosnians live. But Klaus Kinkel, the For-

eign Minister, last night rejected accusations that Germany was acting irresponsibly in beginning the official repatriation, which applies to single people and childless



Orphans hold on to their toys in Berlin yesterday as they await a flight home to Sarajevo. The children had lived in Germany for five years

couples from April I and will be extended to include families with children at the beginning of next month.

We will be just as humane in sending the refugees back as we were in taking them in." Herr Kinkel said.

This is about people who. in some cases, have lived in Germany for very many years

 we won't just mechanically send them back overnight," he added, contradicting media reports in Munich and Berlin that groups of refugees including pregnant and elderly women - have been arrested and forced to board aircraft without any notice or time to pack their belongings.

Commissioner for Refugees once again appealed to Bonn yesterday not to judge repatriation cases based on records collated in Germany but on the stability of the homeland region and the availability of accommodation there.

About a third of the Bosnian refugees living in Germany are Muslims who come from

regions under Serbian control. missioner for Help for Bosnia. According to our informaalso issued a warning against tion, hundreds of thousands of introducing hasty repatriation refugees from various states programmes. "A disorganised deportation of the refugees have to be housed in Bosnia would be a catastrophe," she this year," said a spokesman for the UN refugees agency. Instead of the necessary 50,000 apartments, there are

only about 13,000 standing." Baerbel Bohley, the Com-

The net, which the refugees might be caught up in, is so thin that it will tear under the force of deportation."

Strikes hit French airline as Europe opens skies to rivals

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

BESIEGED by striking pean air travel, carrying more ground staff and pilots. Air than 20 million passengers a France Europe barely managed to limp into the Conti-"open skies" yesterday as the European Union deregulated its airspace to encourage competition.

The state-owned airline was forced to cancel most morning flights from Orly airport, Paris, as staff protested against its merger with Air France, leaving passengers temporarily stranded after the Easter holiday weekend. Only a few shuttles to Marseilles, Nice and Toulouse were operating normally.

Air travellers were also hampered yesterday by a oneday strike by staff at Aeroports de Paris, the city's airport authority. The strike against planned job cuts caused delays in baggage handling and blanked-out flight information screens. Over the weekend air travel was also severely disrupted when most Air France Europe flights were cancelled because of a strike by ground

Anne-Marie Idrac, the ju-nior Transport Minister, said she was appalled by the strikes since it jeopardised the state airline's future as French airspace opened up to competition under the European "open skies" policy. France

year, although its airlines are plagued by labour disputes.

Yesterday's strike was the latest in a series of protests over plans to restructure the airline ahead of its merger with Air France. The industrial action was timed to coincide with a key step that Air France took yesterday towards the merger by leasing the domestic carrier's activities and staff. The merger is due to be completed in September.

Staff at Air France Europe, formerly Air Inter, are unhappy at proposals to bring their more generous pay and working conditions into line with those of their new parent company. Their unions cite a lack of negotiation as a key reason for the industrial action. The management of Air France maintains that the more lucrative terms need to closely with those of lower-cost competitors such as British

Air France plans to capitalise on the "open skies" ruling by introducing a domestic service in Britain, possibly in partnership with Jersey European. On May 5 the airline will challenge the German airline Lufthansa by launching a Frankfurt-to-Berlin

Boat tragedy splits Italy over protection force

The United Nations High

ITALY was deeply divided yesterday over its well advanced plans for military intervention in Albania, with opposition politicians and military commanders urging a last-minute delay in deployment of the Italian-led "protection force".

Professor Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister, insisted it would go ahead as planned within the next two weeks because Albania needs Italian help in its tragic crisis". But La Repubblica gave a

warning that what had started as a humanitarian mission welcomed by the Albanians had been transformed into a high-risk operation by the sinking of an Albanian refugee boat on Good Friday. The boat collided with an Italian corvette trying to stop "illegal immigration" to Italy. Tirana claims that nearly

100 refugees, many of them women and children, were drowned. Angry Albanians especially in Vlore, from where the boat set sail blame Italy for the accident. and rebels have threatened to shoot any Italian troops who land at Albanian ports to escort humanitarian convoys. Beniamino Andreatta, the

Defence Minister, told the defence and foreign relations committees, meeting jointly in the Senate yesterday, that Albanian naval experts had



An Albanian throws explosives into the sea at rebel-held Vlore's harbour to catch fish

been asked to join an inquiry into the disaster. He said the corvette was moving alongside to order the Albanian boat to turn back when the vessel suddenly swung into the Italian ship's path, making collision inevitable. The boat had been stolen from Sarande two days earlier by criminals

Shaqir Vukaj, the Albanian Defence Minister, to discuss Friday's tragedy and plans for the intervention force to be drawn from Italy, Spain, Greece and other southern European nations. France yesterday confirmed it would contribute 1.000 troops to secure Durres and establish a "corridor" for supplies from the port to Tirana. Defence officials from the proposed force and the Western European Union meet in Rome today to complete plans. But Admiral Guido Ventu-

roni, Chief of the Defence Staff, said there was a risk that the "small amount of hope" which existed for getting aid to Albania under military protection had been compromised.

Attempts to reach crossparty unity over the crisis collapsed when Signor Prodi accused Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon and leader of the right-wing Opposition, of cynically exploiting the refugee tragedy. Signor Berlusconi went to Brindisi on Monday, tearfully embracing survivors of the sea tragedy on

☐ Tirana: Bashkim Fino, the Albanian Prime Minister, went to the rebel-held South yesterday for the first time since insurgents seized the region and told their leaders that the Shik secret police had been disbanded. (Reuter)

Leading article, page 21

Camera catches killer policemen in Brazil

Rio de Janeiro: Nine Brazilian policemen have been arrested after being filmed by an amateur cameraman as they robbed and beat three men with batons and killed two of them with shots in the head from close range (Gabriella Gamini writes). The violent scenes were broadcast on national television here yesterday

The policemen were filmed stopping cars at random near the shanty town of Diadema, on the outskirts of São Paulo. One victim was made to kneel before he was killed. The shots were fired by a military police cadet known as "Rambo". Brazil's Justice Minister, Nelson Jobim, announced an inquiry into "human rights violations" and said: "These nine policemen will receive exemplary punishment."

140 die in Hutu rebellion

Bujumbura: At least 140 people have been killed in the past week in clashes between government troops and Hutu rebels in southern Burundi, an army spokesman said. Major Mamert Sinarinzi said the army had sent a team to the province of Bururi to investigate. Later, Lieutenant Isaie Nibizi, the chief army spokesman, said on state television that aircraft had been sent to put down the violent clashes. Military officials said that Hutu rebels killed five people in the Kinhama neighbourhood of Bujumbura late on Sunday. The victims were reported to be Hutus who had recently returned from refugee camps outside the city. (AP)

Bad drivers to be flogged

Abu Dhabi: Ras al-Khaimah, a small Gulf emirate, believes it has found the solution to its chronic problem of bad driving

— public flogging or ten days in jail. "Violators of the traffic rules will be flogged in public at the mosque nearest to their houses," a local newspaper reported. Police said up to 50 lashes would be given to anyone deliberately violating traffic rules, driving badly, ignoring red lights or driving without a licence. "Some young men do not give a damn for traffic rules and our previous punishment of imposing fines has been futile." a police officer said. (AFP)

Escaped tiger spurns dinner

Ottawa: Raw chicken was spread over snow-covered fairways at a golf course yesterday to tempt Zarak, an escaped four-year-old Siberian tiger, who has been on the loose for two days in Barrie. Ontario. Police wanted to get a shot at him with tranquilliser darts, but Zarak stayed in hiding (Richard Cleroux writes). The 56st tiger was being transferred, with his mother, from a wild animal sanctuary to the Bear Creek Exotics Park when he hopped a fence and fled to the safety of a thicket next to the nearby golf course.

Bomb destroys tsar's statue

Moscow: A bomb has destroyed the Russian capital's only monument to the country's last tsar. Nicholas II. right. The Federal Security Service said: "The explosion was carried out in a very professional way. Practically nothing is left of the monument." The 32ft bronze statue was erected in a remote spot in northeast Moscow last year, reflecting continued official uncertainty about the Royal Family, murdered by the Bolsheviks in 1918. (Reuter)



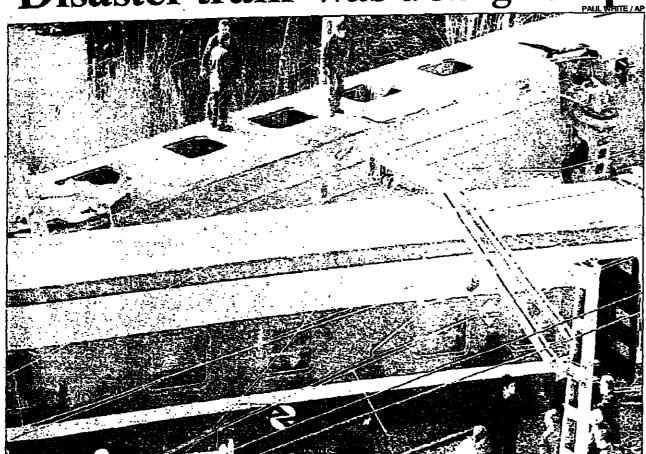
Beijing attacks Gingrich

Hong Kong: The statement by Newt Gingrich, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, that the United States would defend Taiwan if China tried to retake it by force, was condemned by Beijing yesterday as "interference" (Jonathan Mirsky writes). The Foreign Ministry said China preferred peaceful reunification, but would take "other measures" if Taiwan declared independence or foreign forces intervened.

Britons get dressing down

Rotterdam: Police resolved a "cultural misunderstanding" after about twenty young Britons stripped naked amid picnicking Dutch families on a riverside path. They "thought it would be acceptable to stroll around in their birthday suits," the police said. Local people objected, the police were called and the young people dressed hastily and left by taxi. (Reuter)

Disaster train 'was doing 85mph in 20mph zone'



Workers prepare to clear the tracks after a Barcelona to Målaga train was derailed yesterday. killing two people

SPANISH investigators yesterday were picking through passenger trains to discover the causes of two derailments that claimed at least 30 lives on Monday night.

Doctors working at the site of the worse of the two derailments, at Huarte Araquil in the northern province of Navarre, said that the highspeed accident had been so violent that it was impossible to determine whether they had extracted 18 or 19 bodies from the wreckage.

Javier Sevillano, for the state rail company Renfe, said that the train had been travelling at 85mph at a point where the speed limit was 20mph. The driver had survived the accident and was being questioned by the police.

Police officers did not release the names of the dead yesterday, but said the youngest victim had been 13. Twelve of the 97 people injured were still in intensive care at hospitals in Pamplona, 20 miles from the crash. Another 30 people were being treated for lesser injuries. The four-carriage inter-city train had been travelling from Barcelona to Irun on the French border and was packed with people returning from the Easter holiday. In the second derailment.

FROM GILES TREMLETT IN MADRID

Josephine Lambert, 63, a French tourist, and a Spanish railway employee were killed when their night train from Barcelona to Malaga came off the tracks at Azuqueca de Henares, in the central province of Guadalajara. Twenty people were injured. Officials said it was too early to say what had caused the accident. aithough a points failure may have been to blame.

The second accident happened early yesterday while most of the 54 passengers travelling from Barcelona to Málaga were asleep in

couchettes. Embassy officials in Madrid said that Renfe had reported that no British people had been travelling in either train. Rafael Arias Salgado, the Development Minister, ruled out terrorist sabotage as a possible cause of either

A blot on the image

Dior is displeased with the bare-faced chic of its leading lady

said to be on the brink of losing her lucrative cosmet-ics contract with Christian

The problem is that Ms Beart, 30, has emerged as one of the leading campaigners against France's immigration laws, and while the company does not object to her adopting humanitarian causes, it would rather she did so in full

make-up.

Ms Beart, however, has a style all her own. When protesting, she favours Swampy-style jumpers, un-brushed hair and thong neck-laces. The only fashionable

adopted is the new trend for red eyes, and this she has achieved by crying rather than applying copious amounts of expensive eyeliner. While Dior

might hope for Paris Match Paris Béart looking resplendent at some charity ball or other, it instead gets news coverage of her leading antigovernment marches without

so much as a trace of lipstick. The alleged disgruntlement of Bernard Arnault, head of LVMH, the conglomerate that owns Dior, has now gone public. As the French magazine Voici puts it: "What does Dior have against Emmanuelle? An accumlulation of little things which mean that she no longer conforms to the

brand name's chic image."

One cannot help feeling that Dior should count itself lucky that the star of Manon des Sources and Mission Impossible has ever conformed to its image at all. It is almost a law of nature that, once given a cosmetics contract, an actress will do or say something quite at odds with the image. Even Elizabeth Hurley, who appears more determined than most to please her employer, Estée Lauder, was scuppered by the nocturnal

The French actress activities of her boyfriend Emmanuelle Béart is Hugh Grant. Just as the ink was drying, he was preparing to cruise Sunset Boulevard. But the real problem with

signing up actresses is that they will never admit to wearing make up. When Hel-ena Bonham Carter signed her contract with Yardley, she came out with an unscripted line that must have infuriated the marketing men. "I'm not really into make up," she announced. "Well, I haven't been hitherto. My mum used to use the lavender soap. And I had a Yardley bubble bath last night."

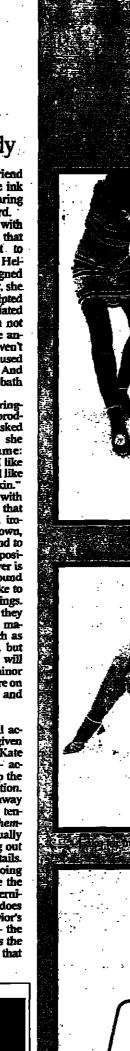
Beart gave a similarly ring-ng endorsement to her prod-uct when asked recently if she

wore perfume: "Very rarely. I like to be natural; I like the smell of skin." The trouble with

actresses is that they have an image of their own, which they tend to create in opposition to whatever is going on around them. They like to be anti things. Grace Bradberry will centre on ma-

jor things such as human rights violations, but in idle moments they will home in on more minor oppressions - the pressure on women to stay svelte and

hile models will accept the image given to them — Kate Moss is Calvin Klein - actresses cannot quite grasp the notion of slavish promotion. Once a script is taken away they have an alarming tendency to want to be them-selves. And they have usually spent much time working out exactly what that entails. Being true to oneself, doing what one believes in, are the mantras of the acting fraternity. The idea that as one does this one might wear Dior's new mascara for hair - the latest product that streaks the hair - is not a notion that





roley dollies

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eys used to have a minimum age attached to them. Squat, tartan and the sine qua non of frumpery, they doubled as walking frames. If one's mother broke through the age barrier and took one to the shops then it was a cause for acute embarrassment. The idea that one would own such

a thing was inconceivable. But the trolley has been rediscovered and reborn, and now defines the post-feminist spirit of metropolitan women. What am I talking about? I'm talking about the shopping trolley as the new secret weapon of beleagured women shoppers everywhere. Sharpened combs, bricks in bags, Mace

may be banned, the trolley is When the first of the New Wave shoppers appeared in the chichi stores of Notting Hill, Brompton Cross and Soho, the trend seemed risible. But then some of the world's most aggressive shoppers took them to Knightsbridge and Bond Street, and collectively proved that not all violent

crime is punishable by law. Battering-without-apparentintent, wilful - but covert ankle-ramming, and oblivious obstruction, are just a few of the non-prosecutable offences which can be - and are committed with one. Most

You can

prove that

purchases

are entirely

unnecessary

your -

trolleys are constructed on such a light-weight frame that it would be possible, with the right amount of ballast inside, to lift one clean off the ground, swing it in a controlled arc. and land it in the stomach of any

aggressor. They are more likely, however, to be used against fellow shoppers than potential muggers. Should you feel the

sharp sensation of wheel against ankle in Harvey Nichols, it is unlikely to have been an accident. Conspicuous and copious shopping is once again fashionable, and the more clout the better if you are struggling to grab luxury goods in confined spaces. The trolley is also a good

way to let people know you are part of the new zeitgeist. Just as the Prada bag with its discreet logo, and "cheap"

industrial nylon, epitomised the consumer spirit of the early Nineties, so the shopping trolley sums up the Bond Street Is Booming feel of 1997. If it's transparent, so much the

> prove to the world that your purchases are entirely unnecessary. Trolleys make one more big style statement: they yell "local shopping", a new trend loaded postcode snobbery. So trendy is your lo-

cale, goes the subtext, that a host of designer emporia have sprung up around the corner. It then makes much more sense to leave the car at home or the Tube pass in the wallet, and walk five minutes round the block to buy a Lulu Guinness bag (Notting Hill), or a Phillip Starck lemon squeezer (Notting Hill, Chelsea). Your troiley is the equivalent of a Tshirt bearing the slogan "I live

in Wil." If you don't live there, then you face a rather different problem - how to smuggle your trolley from NE-triple figures, where a shopping trolley is likely to provoke at best sniggering, at worst civil unrest, to a destination where its ironic chic will receive proper recognition. Thankfully, the Conran Shop has come up with your dream accessory, a collapsible trolley. On the way there it can be hidden from view, and on the way back, amid a sea of splitting carrier bags, it will attract admiration from the most die-hard suburbanite. In between, you can cruise the Ledbury Road like a native. But if you really want to incense onlookers there is only

one place to head and that is Bond Street. Donna Karan is a good place to start, but Tiffany is better. When it opens, the Chanel jewellery store will surely be the ultimate trolley hang out: enter with it empty leave with it full, onlookers will be gasping with envy and incredulity.

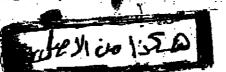


Photographer: KARL GRANT. Stylist: Deborah Brett. Hair and make-up: Helen Bannon. Model: Jacqueline Fadorink at Models 1



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Bless their little cotton socks

Frill-seekers will indulge their whims even if you ban Barbie

al zeal and ponderous discipline of the reformed heroin addict, but I. without such advantages. have given in to the inevitable. I am talking about Courtney Love's decision, which I read about in this month's Vogue. to ban Barbie dolls, frilly socks and topknots from her fouryear-old daughter.

UL 2 1997

Every inch of burning rhetoric of my Millet-inspired militant youth, every centimetre of reasoned, more assimilist feminist argument since, is as nothing. For I have a daughter, a year younger than Courtney Love's, whose cooing embrace of all things girly is undeniable. Ban Barbie dolls. frilly socks or topknots? I wouldn't dare,

I'm not sure that I would



Nigella Lawson

want to. First, I don't think that sort of policing can ever work. I work on the principle that if one doesn't make an issue out of more or less anything - dolls, dresses, sweets. whatever - it will never become one. Secondly, I have had to accept that many of the characteristics I used to believe were the result of a sexist society were prompted

When my daughter was born. I never expected that before she was a year old she would be yearning for a "baby" (a doll in the guise of same) and a little buggy to push it around in. And this enthusiasm seems to be universal among female infants, if my friends' daughters are anything to go by. For they all seem to go through the same stages: next came, with a passion worthy of Dame Barbara Cardand, the pink phase, then the refusal to wear anything but dresses, and then the

obsession with weddings.
At first I took the line that such behaviour was innate: the feminine really does express itself thus. I concluded. But I began to notice something else, too. Mothers who mouth silent apologies or shrug their shoulders in parodic ruefulness when their daughters move into Barbiemania have one thing in common. We have all at some time disclaimed that particular kind of girliness. And I can't help thinking that as we condemn those infantile dis-plays of 1950s womanhood, decorative and super-domesnc, so we take an illicit pleasure in them. I think there



erhaps it takes the mor- is a certain vicarious thrill in all that unashamed girliness, the ribbons, the hairbands, the pink dresses, that prettiness. Even if it doesn't offend us politically (in the feminist sense), it cannot but assault our aesthetic sensibility [mean, have you seen the Polly Pocket trainers? Purple-and-pink-trim dolly — or should I say Polly? - enclosed in its own little heart-shaped capsule on the side. Hideous. But the lure is definitely still there. And it is the stronger for the fact that many women of my generation have resisted it, or,

more to the point, repressed it, It is as if we are letting our daughters express all that forbidden saccharine femininity for us, perhaps even willing them to. (Not that I have ever quite eschewed the business of the feminine myself, nor felt obliged so to do.) In theory, i am opposed to Barbie and all her pomps. But the truth is that I long for my daughter to move into that phase. Hypocrite that I am, as I walked through the toy floor of a department store the other day. I began to rail wearily against the racks upon racks of minuscule outlits and the hair-swirling dollies for which they were designed. It wasn't until we reached the end of the display that I owned up, even to my surprise, that I was just itching to get my fingers on them. I can't wait.

Times have changed since the 1970s, when women thought that the way to equality was by apeing men: far from seeming a feminist perspective, that now appears to be essentially misogynistic. There is no shame attached to the female, the feminine, And yet. I think we should be wary of opposite claims, too.

By that I mean the Spice Girls, early Madonna, the myth of post-feminism: all that gumph about showing your knickers being an essentially feminist statement. Of course, I found it ridiculous when I was told once (by a man) that wearing eyeliner meant that I when I was more disposed even to want to believe that we were all victims of a patriarchal plot, I wasn't prepared to look the part. And yet, I do see the logic. Today's version of the feminist, all high heels, red lips and see-through shirt, seems to be an intellectually impure creature by compar-

As I am myself. For much as I may want to tut-tut at the ideologically unsound. I am also almost as taken by my daughter's Disney video of Cinderella as she is. For underneath all of us, be we ever so tough or briefcasebound, it would appear that there is still a part that wants to be whirling around a ballroom in a sparkly dress.

Still, better to acknowledge that and move on. In believing that by banning Barbie she can banish what she represents, Courtney Love is deluding herself and her daughter. But then, it's such self-delusion that makes her want to do it in the first place.

₹ime was when the clocks went forward, you just put your clock forward. Not any longer. Now that microchip technology has made it possible very cheaply, anything that can take a clock has one.

In our house we had to move 23 clocks forward: one on the oven, one on the microwave, the ones on two televisions. two video recorders, three remote controls, two computers, one fax machine, three telephones, an answerphone, two burglar alarm keypads. one stereo, two alarm clocks



MARGARET McDONAGH: Labour election co-ordinator — scourge of dissenters PATRICK ROBERTSON: Goldsmith PR, party animal





CATHERINE FALL: Tory Euro officer

The glamour girls and boys

n intervention by Baroness Thatcher in the political battle yesterday, like a god-dess favouring feeble mortals in the Trojan War, was a potent reminder of how a glamourous blonde can make even the dreariest election come alive.

The intervention of Sir Edward Heath was, however, a truer reminder of the image politicians project. Ted is the unacceptable face of Conservatism in all its liver-spotted, overfed and undersexed glory. Even if he now represents little else, he does at least signify how distant the worlds of politics and glamour appear to most voters.

That impression is. course, only reinforced by the parade of suits at press conferences and the lame attempts by Mantovani men to appropriate Lightning Seeds lyrics

MARGARET McDONAGH

Labour's election co-

A mother figure for

Blair's boys? Only if your

the she-wolf who suckies the

mum's Ma Baker. She's

rotweilers of the rapid

rebuttal unit and slaps

Is this woman's place in

the House? Possibly, but

her sister Siobhan is a

better bet. Margaret is

influence from outside.

Nurturing talent? And

suffocating it. Her job after

line will be more important

victory would be keeping

the party in line with the

leadership: toeing the

than talent.

more likely to wield

down dissenters.

ordinator, age 36

They're spindoctors with sex appeal. Michael Gove on the election

bratpack or Spice Girls hook lines. And yet, behind the scenes are graduates of Generation X. who know their Pulp albums from their Pulp Fiction.

doctors of both sexes, but while the boys are happy to preen, the glamour girls hate to be thought of as such. The women of new Labour, in particular, loathe to be seen making their generation or gender an issue - but they needn't worry, their party has

LEADERS OF THE PACK

PATRICK ROBERTSON

Personal PR for Sir

James Goldsmith, age 28

looks owe something to a

Roman childhood and a

grooming products, but his

Annabel's more often than

little to duty-free

parents are Scots.

Does that make him

more dour devil than daredevit? Not at all. in

the owner, Patrick is

such an accomplished

socialite people now ask

So not a serious figure?

Quite the opposite. Few are closer to Jimmy than

Goldsmith to introduce

them to Patrick.

A true Brit — just like Jimmy? Patrick's Latin

The women-only shortlists which the NEC can still impose, and the guaranteed seats on the NEC itself, create a women's refuge from all-out electoral competition. Within the support structure, however, new Labour entirely lives up to its meritocratic rhetoric. With no room for failure, there is no space for second-best.

he ascendancy of Margaret McDonagh, general elections co-ordinator, in Millbank Tower attests to that. Although she would balk at the suggestion that she was anything other than a political mechanic, her icy air of command has won her admirers among her juniors. need to be bossed," explained

one cynic. Labour's glamour boys are

CATHERINE FALL

European Policy Officer,

Englander? Hardly. She

Moscow, has worked in

Strasbourg and has a

half-ltalian boyfriend.

a diplobrat, she learnt

she counts sceptics as

difficult customers.

Are all her friends

As likely to be dining

early how to deal with

Although Euro-moderate.

politicos? Emphatically not.

with Howard Davies from

the Bank of England as a grande dame of ballet.

How can she cope with

Central Office? Admirably:

Another little

was educated in

Tory Central Office, age 28

overshadowed by the brooding presence of Alastair Campbell, the leader's press secretary. Millbank moles have noted that he wanders round with shirt buttons undone, gigolo-style. The Torn Jones turn has few emulators. partly because the key new Labour garment is a waistcoat cut so high it can resemble your granny's cardigan, but also because overt displays of

ties or new Labour. Laddishness is, however, de rigueur at Tory Central Office. where breeding, in both senses, matters. While the boys tend to be Loaded meets P.G. Wodehouse, the girls are all real Wooster women. The most accomplished Conservative coquettes, such as Catherine Fall and Rachel Whetstone, all come from

UNSECURED PERSONAL LOANS

masculinity are neither Nine-

Cobham and Roedean. The real home, however, of youthful glamour in politics is the Referendum Party, where Jimmy Goldsmith's personal PR Patrick Robertson presides over a harem of girls in Gucci. It's a pity for politics that the polls suggest the party party will. like the labels its activists wear, he taken to the cleaners

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HOW TO TELL THEM APART

New Labour: Drink: Sea Breeze/Hoegarden beer. Bar: Oxo Tower. Soho House. Men's suit: Agnes B. single breasted. Women's dress: Jigsaw suit, square-toed

Men's haircut: French crop. off the Women's haircut: Power bob. Most likely to say: "Why don't you bring

Least likely to say: You know what I hate about Tony?

Young Tory: Drink: Bloody Mary/Guinness. Bar: Young's pubs, Chelsea wine bars. Men's suit: Pinstripe from Hackett. Women's dress Cashmere and snaffled

Men's haircut: Eton fringe, flopping. Women's haircut: Lacrosse-pitch length and Alice band. Most likely to say: "What's the talent

Least likely to say: "You know what I admire about Brian?

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Alan Coren



■ And in the gardens of Arcadia my ego was supplanted

as it or was it not an exemplary Easter Monday? Was I or was I not intoxicated, high up on Hertfordshire's sunlit hummocked Ridgeway, by the palpably thrumming regeneration all about me, things spiritual and natural mystically intertwined as they were seasonally meant to be, God's Son in His heaven, and bees, birds and buds new-risen wherever I looked? With, at my feet, a thousand different flowers.

All for sale. Which was why I was there, traipsing the gravelled aisles of an enormous garden centre, keenly peering this way and that, my mudstained garden plan clutched in a blistered hand still smarting from the energetic preparation of the beds waiting back in Cricklewood, dug, turned, mulched, watered, and crying out, now, to be filled with stuff. What kind of stuff? All kinds. Nice tall coloured stuff at the back, nice middlesized scented stuff in the centre, nice titchy edging stuff at the front, you know the type of thing, you've all done jigsaws. But have you all done herbaceous borders?

I had, until last weekend, not, and they turned out to be trickier than jigsaws; you haven't got a lid to guide you. True, I did have the mudstained plan, but mine is not a household name where horticulturalists foregather, and the mudstained plan just had these rough oblongs of pencilled bed on it blottched gut in colcaved inks to indicate it, blotched out in coloured inks to indicate the different hues of all the stuff I thought I was after, most of which, unfortunately, had now mudstained together to give the impression that what I wished to create was a paradise of herbaceous khaki. Never mind, I had it more or less in my head. The problem was that I didn't have it more or less at my feet. I didn't have it at all at my feet, because when I said, a moment ago, that there were a thousand different flowers down there, what I should have said was that there were a thousand different things that would be flowers once they had come

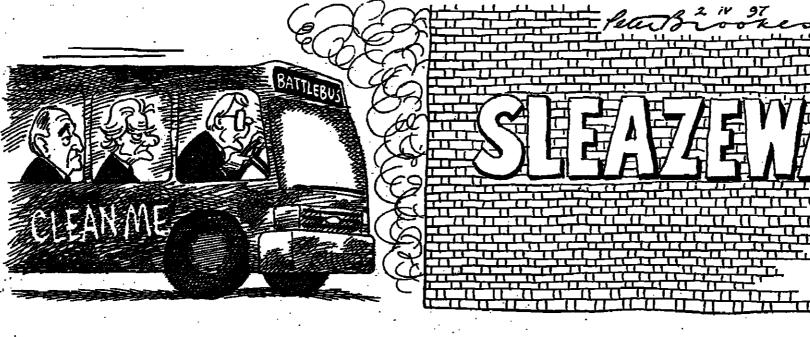
looked like a thousand little lettuces. And then Roger appeared. I knew he was Roger, because there was a tag on his green dungarees. Roger wanted to know if he could help me. I replied joyfully that nobody could help me more, and I put him in the picture, insofar as pointing at an arrangement of shapeless khaki blobs may be said to constitute that, and Roger said: "Why not begin with a background of Hilarius mucus?

out. At the moment, what I had at my feet

Or something like that. Whatever it was, I knew at once that we were in serious trouble. because when I asked him what Hilarius mucus looked like, he asked me if I was familiar with, as I recall, either Copius gingivitis or Cartelloni hysteria. I told him I wasn't, and he looked a bit shaken, but tried to describe it, so I asked if it came in yellow, and it didn't, but Polyfilla hernia did, he said, and would go very well with what he suggested I planted in front of it, which might have been Dubius harmonium, or then again might not. Either way, the ideal plant to complement it as a dwarf edger

Tow, I shouldn't have cared as much about any of this, felt half as dumb, grinned nearly as sheepishly, had I not been rather good at Latin. If, for example, Roger had wanted to know whether Caesar was about to march his forces expeditiously to new winter quarters on this side of the river and on that, I should have rattled off the answer instantly, and even, perhaps, gone on to sing of arms and the man who first from the shores of Troy came destined to an Italian exile; but he didn't. The Latin I had been rather good at was no good at all, here. I had been taught the wrong Latin. They should have made me study Caesar's Gallic Rockery and Virgil's Herbaceid.

I went home not long afterwards, with a lot of little lettuces in the boot of the car to stick in where Roger advised they should be stuck, God knows what'll come up, but that is not the point of this piece. I have written this piece because what we do know is coming up is an election, and since education is a core subject of it, I want to make a plea for Latin to be a core subject of that. Show me a candidate who stands for Latin, and I shall show him a vote. A dead language? Not if you want live plants, it isn't.





An old Tory fairy-tale

Museum on Easter Saturday: First Woman: "I don't mind Tony Blair but this devolution business is ridiculous. Do you remember that book we used to have at home, the one about the smoothie new Labour Prime Minister who wanted independence for Scotland and got kidnapped by suffragettes trying to stop a revolution on the Isle of Wight?". Second Woman: "I've no idea what you're talking about. Eat your lunch."

Norman Davey's Yesterday is not a famous book - no more so now than in the year it was published, 1924, during Ramsay MacDonald's first and shortlived Labour Government. But a quick search in the bookshops of Bloomsbury confirmed that my fellow museum visitor had remembered it well. Yesterday's hero is indeed a smoothmannered, former public schoolboy, Charles Debenham, "the premier of England and leader of the Radical Administration". Its subject is the effect on Britain of a left-wing government promising devolution. The parallels between the two Labour leaders are not exact — but neither are they exactly

We first meet Mr Debenham soon after his election victory when, already tired from the efforts of implementing his manifesto, he is taking a quiet holiday cruise on board the First Lord of the Admiralty's yacht. After lobster mayonnaise, cold chicken in aspic, iced watermelon and champagne cup. his host warns him of the risks of prime ministerial absence.

"Yes, but then nothing can happen. Nothing ever does happen in this bright little country. The administration is run entirely by Under Secretaries and heads of Departments. If you and I and all the Cabinet were to go off, puff, like smoke, tomorrow, the country would go on just the same. Oh this is better than elections, no reporters and, thank God!,

Meanwhile on the Isle of Wight, a leading article in the Ryde Herald has a more radical message than the radical Prime Minister ever had in mind.

"Ireland has obtained National Indepen-Independence; the time has come to achieve the same for the Isle of Wight. Vectis nunquam vinceretur! God Save The Peter Stothard reflects on Ramsay

MacDonald, Tony Blair and

Home Rule for the Isle of Wight

The rebels are confident.

"England will simply puff and snort for a few weeks and then give in. What else can she do, with a Radical Government

The Left is elated. Home Rule will do more to implement the new govern-ment's programme than could ever be expected from the public schoolboy holiday-maker with a green chartreuse in one hand and a lobster claw in the other. As one demonstrator puts it:

The first thing we've got to see passed is a Midimum Wages Bill. No employment under thirty bob a week. That's what I say. Hear, hearl, cried one or two

Back in Downing Street, the Cabinet is growing restless. "Morning, Neville. Is the Prime Min

"No, sir.'

'I'm a bit early. I'll wait. Ah, there's Lord Thrale picked up the paper, studying with some care a full-page caricature of himself as keeper of a winklestall. He was Secretary of State for Foreign

Affairs.
"I believe the Prime Minister's a halluci-nation. I don't believe there ever was a Prime Minister. It was merely a term we used, a symbol we employed to designate the pivot around which our policy re-volved, an illusion that is now shattered."

"How's the Exchequer?", asked the President of the Board of Trade, "Oh, it's somehow, sort of alive," said a tall man with a hatchet face, "despite the opposition in the Isle of Wight where they've ducker the income Tax Collector, expelled the Insurance Act officials and publicly revoked the Hated Act. Why can't anyone get hold of Debenham?"

Reaction in Scotland, home to a large number of Debenham's Cabinet,

A small party looked favourably upon the Isle of Wight's independence as being a precedent that Scotland should adopt; but, by far the majority of Scotsmen were of the opinion that it was much more advantageous to govern England as well as Scotland, as they did then, than to govern Scotland, as they would on secession.



YESTERDAY NORMAN DAVEY

London positively seethes with the Isle of Wight question.

The Evening News devoted a whole page to a long and stirring battle poem by John Massfield, entitled Blood!. The Times came out with a leader entitled "Devolution and Democracy", the product of an under-secretary, an Oxford Dictionary and half a bottle of port, a masterpiece in the art of discussing the incredible in a manner such as would lead the reader to believe that such was a matter of everyday occurrence.

In Wales and Cornwall and the Isle of Man the spirit of devolution is spread-

Truro was aflame: Bodmin was aflame. The disintegration of the British Empire was yet further increased by the coalition of the Channel Islands — Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney and Sark — into the Independent Federation of the Southern

As the author comments:

the English, while peculiarly slow at adopting a new idea, yet, when once that idea is firmly rooted in their intelligence,

Maseratis, a 1967 Ferrari, and a

dilapidated 1964 Osca — optimistically described in the catalogue

as "ripe for completion". Together

with spare parts, ranging from five-speed gearboxes to twin-choke

carburettors, the collection is ex-

JOHN MAJOR'S literary tastes have moved on from Trollope. He

has expressed a weakness for

Rudyard Kipling, and recently

told Leeds University students that The Ballad of East and West

Although it fails to mention soap

boxes, the poem does concern a

one-to-one facedown - between a

(1889) is his favourite poem.

pected to raise £100,000.

Ruddy man

waste little time in carrying it out to its logical and ultimate conclusion.

Charles Debenham has been delayed at sea by the novel's sub-plot, in which the Prime Minister is kidnapped by militant suffragettes, the far Left of his day. This section involves the Radical hero escaping in washerwoman's clothes like a cross between Bonnie Prince Charlie and Mr Toad. Perhaps that is why my fellow visitor to the British Museum remembered it so well. Once Debenham is back home in Downing Street, the electoral arithmetic

He cursed an evil fate that had precipitated him into such a horner's nest. Beside the full-blown crisis in the Isle of Wight there were four miniature crises awaiting disentanglement. And the process of entanglement meant, as the Prime Min-ister admitted pathetically, loss of votes.

'He is even forced to offer the Isle of fight revolutionary leader the job of Minister for Education. Only a timely plot-twist provided by a German spy saves the nation and the day.

The beauty of Davey's novel is not just 73 years on; it is in the serendipitous way the plot unfolds. The mainspring of the action is not a massive desire by the people of the Isle of Wight for independence. The inflammatory editorial in the Ryde Herald is a joke played on a drunken editor by a visiting Fleet Street columnist. The island's Liberator is a friend of the columnist who needs an excuse to kidnap an unenthusiastic girlfriend. The rush to Home Rule is riven by the fear of one island town that the other will declare itself the capital first. Devolution in the air, through devious twists and happenstances, inexorably leads to demonstrations on the ground.

"How happy is the Opposition", continued Debenham. "I often remember the time when I was out of office. How unencumbered we were! How witty, how resourceful, how irresponsible! If they'd only give the leader of the Opposition five thousand a year, who would be Prime

By the time that Yesterday appeared, published by Chapman & Hall at 7/6 net, the first Ramsay MacDonald administration was almost over. Norman Davey subtitled his book A Tory Fairy Tale.

The author is the Editor of The Times.

Guillem: risking all

admired by potentates the world over, Sylvie's enthusiastic leaps as a guest of the choreographer William Forsythe (who designed the vast vinyl fortress) must have been an insurer's nightmare.

Among those she encountered flailing about on the castle in the Roundhouse, Camden, was Nicholas Kenyon, the Controller of BBC Radio 3. They talked very animatedly," says a Roundhouse bouncer. "The castle seems to inspire great familiarity."

Yesterday, sadly, neither ballerina nor Kenyon was available to

The killing fields are red again

Cambodia's culture of impunity, by

William Shawcross

he grenade attack on Cambodia's leading opposition party on Easter Sunday, which folled up to 19 people and left more than 100 wounded, is a catastrophe. It threatens to undo the UN peacekeeping process of 1991-93, once believed to be the most successful that the world has ever mounted

Initial evidence suggests that the attack was approved at a high level in the coalition Government which the UN created. In the past two years, dozens of journalists and political leaders critical of the Government have been threat-ened, attacked or even killed. None of those responsible has been arrested, let alone punished. Yet at the same time. the Government has given pardons, with no questions asked, to leading figures in the decaying Khmer Rouge movement, which exterminated perhaps as many as two million people at the end of the 1970s. The message is that even the grossest human rights violations do not matter. A culture of impunity - in which those who murder on govern-ment orders go free, and everyone else is in fear — has been allowed to develop.

This attack was particularly brutal. About 160 people had gathered, legally and peacefully, to walk from the offices of the Khmer Nation Party, Cambodia's leading opposition party, to the National Assembly, to protest over the lack of rule of law in Cambodia. Usually police and soldiers mingle with and harass such a demonstration. On this occasion a squad of well-armed soldiers stayed about 200 yards away, evidently ordered to keep a safe distance. Close to the National Assembly building, Sam Rainsy, a former minister of finance who is now the leader of the Khmer Nation Party, addressed the crowd. At about \$ 20am two grandes amplied about 8.20am two grenades exploded close to him. His life was saved only because one of his bodyguards jumped on him and forced him to the ground.

The bodyguard was killed. Then two more grenades exploded at the back of the crowd, killing people trying to flee. Two men in civilian clothes, probably grenade-throwers, were seen running towards the group of soldiers, who allowed them to pass. A demonstrator who tried to chase them was stopped by the soldiers. In other words, the soldiers seem to have helped the murderers

Dozens of policemen then cordoned off the area, but they did nothing to help the wounded. People were left in agony in the broiling sun on the street. According to Amnesty International, one woman "whose legs had been blown off was eventually picked up by the police and thrown into the back of an open pickup truck, which was then driven off without securing the victim, who was almost thrown off the back. She was declared dead on arrival at one of Phnom Penh's hospitals." There are still scores of mutilated people in the hospitals; they are in torment because scarely any of them have enough money for painkillers. Voluntary agencies are appealing for money and drugs to help them.

Tational elections are due next year, five years after the UN elections. Those were won by the royalist party, led by Prince Norodom Ranarriddh, but the ruling former Communists under Hun Sen threatened a civil war if the UN tried to make them leave office. The UN was forced to accept a coalition with two prime ministers: Prince Ranariddh and Hun Sen. Of the two, Hun Sen, a former Khmer Rouge soldier whom the Vietnamese installed in power as leader of a Communist government in the 1980s, is the dominant personality. His behaviour is increasingly psychotic, threatening all who oppose him. He is one of the main targets of Sam Rainsy's public criticism of the "mafia state" in Cambodia. Rainsy's life is constantly threatened.
In the past 12 months the two Prime

Ministers have competed to encourage Khmer Rouge defections. They want the former soldiers on their side in case political rivalry once more becomes civil war. Men such as leng Sary, the former Khmer Rouge foreign minister, have been given pardons, passports and money to defect to the Government side. No investigations of their crimes against humanity have taken place.

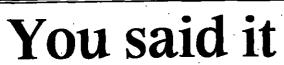
As a result of this culture of impunity. human rights violators are exempt from punishment. Some of those who helped the wounded in the grenade attack are said to be terrified that they will be punished for doing so.

The world is no longer watching. The British Government was effective in the 1993 election process, with a strong Ambassador, David Burns. Since then it has sat on the sidelines. So, more importantly, has the Clinton Administration, which has tragically ignored

warnings from Amnesty and others. Cambodia now needs the UN Security Council and other institutions such as the UN Human Rights Commission to turn their attention once more to the country. The international donors who supply almost half the national budget have both the responsibility and the means to put pressure on the Government. Cambodia is now a signatory of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and by chance is being discussed this week by the Human

Rights Commission in Geneva. A strong resolution is called for. No one expected Cambodia to be transformed overnight into a model democracy. But Hun Sen clearly believes that his men can without fear attack all who oppose him. He must be told it is not so. Otherwise the mentality

of the killing fields will return. P·H·S The author has written edit modern Cambodia The author has written extensively on



OLYMPIAN political figure she may be, but Baroness Thatcher is not averse to a spot of plagiarism to boost her cause. Yesterday, in The Daily Telegraph. she wrote of the "boneless wonder" of new Labour, asserting that parallels between her achievements and those of Tony Blair are false.

The phrase "boneless wonder" was used by Winston Churchill in the House of Commons in 1931 to



Lending the mot juste

put Labour's Ramsay MacDonald in his place, yet the baroness made no acknowledgement of the debt in her pot-stirring piece. "I remember, when I was a

child, being taken to the celebrated Barnum's Circus, which contained an exhibition of freaks and monstrosities, but the exhibit . . . which I most desired to see was the one described as 'The Boneless Wonder'," said Churchill.

"My parents judged that that spectacle would be too revolting and demoralising for my youthful eyes, and I have waited 50 years to see the boneless wonder sitting on the Treasury Bench."

In familiar company, Baroness Thatcher, who has just donated her papers to Churchill College to be shelved alongside Sir Winston's, regularly refers to "Winston" as though speaking of a friend, even though she is not known to have met him. Yesterday, her office applauded her use of the "boneless wonder" description. "Oh Lord no, she never claimed it as her own," said one of her staff. "A good expression sticks. Why not use it again?"

● The comet Hale-Bopp has made the evebrow-raising astronomer

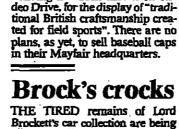


Patrick Moore so animated that he has been meditating on the potential benefits of sisteral bodies. "Although Hale Boop, has no chance of hitting Earth," he said on return from any aeroplane flight to inspect to land on the European Parliament." European Parliament."

Going Dutch

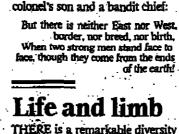
THE CREAK of old brogues and the rustle of Barbour jackets are soon to be heard in sultry Beverley Hills alongside the chatter of ageing models with facelifts.

Holland & Holle id, purveyors of shotguns and country accessories to the Duke of Edinburgh and the Prince of Wales, are planning to open a California branch. squeezed in between Giorgio Armani and Raigh Lauren. . A stately two-storey granite



building has been chosen on Ro-

Brockett's car collection are being auctioned off at London's Olympia this afternoon. Brockett will be following the sale from — aptly enough — Ford prison, after hisconviction for an insurance fraud, over his sports cars. 🗓 The sale, conducted by Brooks Auctioneers, will include two 1956



THERE is a remarkable diversity in the gyrations of the ballerina Sylvie Guillem. Last week, shortly after making her final curtain call in La Bayadere at Covent Garden. she was spotted hurling herself

around a bouncy castle. Risking dancing limbs that are

One testament to John Major's "classless

society" is the number of middle and upper-

class people who currently intend to vote

Labour on May 1. This may not have been

the social fluidity that the Prime Minister

had in mind when he set out one of his early

visions for Britain: but, despite all the

caveats that sociologists can find, class-

based politics does seem at last to be

Yesterday Tony Blair seemed to relish the

symbolism of sharing a platform with Alan

Howarth, the Conservative defector whom

he has charged with encouraging and

reassuring those of his background who are

now considering their own jump from Tory

to Labour. It is unclear so far how successful

this tactic will be: Tories intending to vote

Labour will not necessarily be swayed by the

example of so blatant a turncoat. But, even if

Mr Howarth has no impact, the scale of

those switching to Labour is already clear.

Voters who deserted one of the main parties

used to go as far as the Liberals and no

further. Now, however, voters are moving

straight across in droves. In the Wirral

South by-election, it was the most significant

factor. No longer is it shocking for people

who have voted Tory all their lives to say

The swing from Conservative to Labour

since the last general election is greater

among the so-called "ABs" - those in

managerial and professional occupations -

than among the rest of the electorate,

according to our latest MORI poll. In April

1992, the ABs favoured the Tories over

that they intend to give Labour a chance.

BLAIR'S BAIT

Follow me over to Labour, says the ex-Tory MP

that she persuaded so many working-class and lower middle-class voters to support

her. With the aid of policies such as council-

house sales, she embodied their aspirations

and helped to make them more prosperous

than their parents. Now Mr Blair is trying to

achieve the same for Labour: reaching out

beyond traditional class support to lead a

party, as he said yesterday, "behind which people from all walks of life, all classes, all

The fact that Baroness Thatcher and Mr

Major came from relatively modest back-

grounds helped to dispel the notion that the

Tory party was only for the privileged. Mr Blair, set to be the first public-school

educated Prime Minister from either party

since Alec Douglas-Home, offers the same

reassurance in reverse. If he, and indeed Mr

Howarth, can feel comfortable in the new

Labour Party, it is perhaps safe for others of

Of course, policies are as important as

people. Had Mr Blair acceded to Gordon

Brown's desire to raise the top rate of income

tax, he would have been sending the wrong

signal to those whom Mr Howarth has been

tasked to woo. Had he allowed his Shadow

Education Secretary, David Blunkett, to levy

VAT on private school fees, or kept John

Smith's plan to lift National Insurance

thresholds, then wealthier voters would

have supported Labour only against their

If Labour's conversion into a party for all

the nation is genuine, it should be welcomed.

Voters of all backgrounds should now be

able to exercise genuine choice at elections,

without the expectation that one half of

society will be pitted against the other while

each party is in power. The change will also

accord with public desires. As long ago as

1970. Labour's private polls found that

voters wanted a party that represented all

classes. The message was so unwelcome that

parts of Britain can unite".

their background to support.

own clearest interests.

Easter manifesto

on a central truth

Sir. Your excellent leading article of

Good Friday, "In Easter light", must surely be breaking new ground.

There, in black and white, as fresh as

the about-to-be-published party mani-

lestos and in matter-of-fact terms, was

the central statement of Christianity

"that God so loved the world that He gave His only Son" — for Christians

the central of all truths.

So why did I find it so strange to see

it placed as a leading article, instead of gracing the ghetto of some Credo col-

umn? It was beautiful. It should sure-

ly have been surrounded by some ac-

claim. It is surely more important

The Times supports God. Bravo!

Sir, I am surprised that your leading

article should repeat the old canard

that for Jewish law, crucifixion "was

evidence that the one who died was

cursed by God". No such doctrine has

ever existed in Judaism. Thousands of

Jews died, like Jesus, by crucifixion

because of their resistance to Roman

imperialism, but they were regarded

The statement by Paul (Galatians

iii, 13), "Christ bought us freedom from the curse of the law, by be-coming for our sake an accursed

thing: for Scripture says, Cursed is

everyone who is hanged on a tree" is

his own individual interpretation of

Deuteronomy xxi, 23, for which no

parallel can be found in Jewish

Even criminals who suffered capital

punishment for their crimes were not

regarded as thereby undergoing a

curse, but on the contrary as gaining

expiation for their sin (Tosefta, San-

hedrin ix, 5). The rabbinic interpreta-

tions of Deuteronomy xxi. 23 do not

regard the curse as applying to the hanged person, but to the persons res-

ponsible for the hanging ("hanging"

here means the public exposure of the

corpse of an executed person over-

night).
The sectarian Temple Scroll (64) ap-

pears to take the more primitive view

that hanged persons suffer from a

curse (if the hanging of the corpse is prolonged overnight), but only when

they are guilty, not when they are in-

nocent victims of oppression. Only

Paul regards Deuteronomy xxi, 23 as

referring to some magical curse ad-

hering even to an innocent person

through hanging per se.
It is time that this idiosyncratic view

should be attributed to its source,

Paul, instead of being attributed to

Yours faithfully, HYAM MACCOBY,

March 30.

Leo Baeck College, 80 East End Road, N3.

From Mr John Murphy

Seek and fail to find

Sir, Recent disclosures in The Times

are tending to confirm to me the dis-

quieting realisation that, by and large.

my parents were probably as con-

fused as I: my teachers as impulsive;

my doctors as sick; my priests as sin-

ful; my psychiatrists as tormented; my

gurus as bewildered: and now, appar-

ently, my politicians are as self-

serving as myself.
Pray, Sir, whence should I seek

not as cursed but as martyrs.

than "The Sun supports Labour"

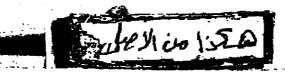
I am, yours sincerely, PHILIP A. C. CAMPBELL,

20 Ashchurch Terrace, W12.

From Dr Hyam Maccoby

March 27.

From Mr Philip A. C. Campbell



culture ty, by

aweross

nore than its one is threaten. apine process Section of sec giver, pardom

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Labour by 53 to 25 per cent; now they prefer Labour by 39 to 36 per cent. Class-based politics have been in a gradual decline since the 1960s. The last time that it was fashionable for the chattering classes to vote Labour was in 1966. But switches in the other direction were 14 + 4 + 484 M commonplace in the 1980s. It was one of Margaret Thatcher's great achievements it was ignored. er in the same end of the segment

RETHINK FOR ROME The Albanian expedition should be stopped before it starts

Italy's proposal for military intervention in Albania has all the makings of a disaster. The international force now being hastily assembled with the lukewarm blessing of the United Nations appears to have learnt nothing from the last European attempt to . enforce peace in the Balkans. As in Bosnia, there is no clear mandate, no chain of command or division of duties, no properly defined military task and no exit strategy. Unlike Bosnia, there is not even the pretext of international aggression: the force is wading into the Albanian imbroglio to confront not a political challenge or civil war but thieves, gangsters and opportunists.

Italy insists that its proposal to send in troops to guard the aid convoys is a humanitarian response to the calls for help from Tirana. Rome's truer motive is national selfinterest. Having sheltered the first wave of refugees, Italy is now terrified at the prospect of an uncontrolled flood of destitute and ill-educated Albanians spreading across the country bringing new organised crime links in their wake.

The refugees, many admitting they are fleeing poverty rather than persecution, are now being sent home, with the Italian navy patrolling the straits to turn back the rusting wrecks in which thousands of desperate people are attempting to flee. As Lamberto Dini, the Foreign Minister, repeatedly insists, they will continue to stream out until conditions improve.

Some Italians are beginning to have second thoughts as the enormity of the undertaking becomes clear. The country has little experience and a mixed record in military operations. The last intervention in Albania, ordered by Mussolini on Good Friday, 1939, presaged a disastrous war, and memories of wartime ineptitude are still deep. A more recent attempt to restore order in Somalia, another former colony, ended in

catastrophe. The Italian military has not decided the rules of engagement or the chain of command, and is already suggesting that conditions in Albania are too risky. Public support is volatile, the opposition is preparthe Defence Minister's low profile hardly inspires confidence on the eve of today's meeting in Rome of allies in the force.

Italy is also chagrined that support for intervention has come only from "the olive belt" - those countries either directly affected by the crisis, such as Greece, those with historic ties such as Turkey and countries such as Romania keen to demonstrate its peace-keeping potential to Nato. Nato's immediate rejection of any military role and the refusal by the main troopsuppliers in Bosnia, Britain in particular, to take part has left many Italians uneasy. Their anxiety will be only partly relieved by the offer of 1,000 French troops.

What makes the entire operation problematic is that the mood in Albania itself has suddenly changed. The fatal collision of a refugee ship with an Italian naval vessel has provoked an outburst of hostility against a country that Albanians, in their naivety, believed would rescue them from their lawlessness and foolhardy pyramid investments. Even the aid agencies now see troop escorts as a liability likely to make the convoys a target for bandits. Italy should reconsider. The operation can still be halted without losing face: the recent decision to call off the Canadian-led expedition to Zaire was a sensible response to changed circumstances. Things have already changed in Albania. Rome should change too.

ARCHERS ON TARGET

Grundy awakens the underdog instinct in us all

Anyone who was even half awake when an item about the battle between Eddie Grundy and Simon Pemberton began on the Today programme yesterday will have been startled into full attention by Anna Ford's description of Pemberton as "a bit of a shit". But the number of listeners blinking at her choice of words will have been far outweighed by those nodding in broad agreement. The most remarkable thing about the nation's latest obsession is not that Grundy and Pemberton are fictions: it is that so

many are on the side of Grundy. Pemberton owns the land on which, in Radio 4's The Archers. Grundy farms. Pemberton is well-spoken and rich: Grundy sounds like Walter Gabriel reincarnate. Grundy has pulled himself together of late but for years he shuffled from disaster to catastrophe at the head of a dysfunctional family. He has been to farming what another Eddie, Edwards, became to downhill ski-ing, a compelling failure. To that extent he is the underdog in us all; but in the F era of Douglas Hogg, BSE, cloned sheep. organophosphates and E. coli, Grundy may

speak also to a shift in public opinion. Grundy's ultimate battle with Pemberton. before a Lands Tribunal, began in last night's edition of The Archers and the denouement is likely on Friday. If, as we expect. Grundy wins, the outcome will break with the recent real-life trend: each of the last a bit.

three such cases has resulted in the tenant's eviction. A fictional outcome in favour of Grundy would, however, seem far more "real" to the listeners, who number nearly four million.

The long success of The Archers owes something to what Tom Wolfe once called "identifying the correct emotion". Television soaps may have sought audiences with tales of lesbians, gays, adulterers and murderers. and even The Archers has from time to time strayed down such paths. But the real modernity of The Archers lies in its gradual transition from a show designed to keep farmers abreast of agricultural trends to one which now keeps a sceptical urban population in touch with what Big Agriculture is up

The Grundy-Pemberton drama perfectly encapsulates this change. Little farmer against big landowner is a microcosm of shopkeeper against hypermarket, environmentalist against motorway, Third Division peasant against Premiership nobility.

Eddie Grundy deserves to win this week in order to prove that the loveable rogue is alive and well. City-dwellers may not all think about the countryside very much; they may visit it sparingly; but we all want reassurance that its population includes people like the Grundys, all up to their ankles in the material of which Pemberton is

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Reply to Labour's agenda for unions

From Mr Ian Lang, MP for Galloway and Upper Nithsdale (Conservative)

Sir. From Tony Blair's article on Labour's union agenda ("We won't look back to the 1970s", March 31) I can only conclude either that the Labour leader does not know the detail of Labour Party policy, or that his party

is afraid to tell the electorate the truth. For instance, Mr Blair claims that it is "wrong" to say that Labour would grant employees full employment rights from their first day. But according to Labour's chief employment spokesman, Ian McCartney, it is "total nonsense" to suggest Labour would not grant full employment protection rights to employees from their first day of employment (Tribune,

Mr Blair claims it is "false" to assert that Labour and the TUC are "to set up a new agency to oversee union recognition". According to Composite 13 on "Rights at work", as passed at the 1996 Labour conference, "a new 'Representation Agency' would have powers to award consultation rights to a union". This would have "both trade union and employer involvement".

Mr Blair claims to have "rejected the TUC proposals, which were for wider rights of representation". Again, in passing Composite 13, the 1996 Labour conference endorsed a policy requiring only 10 per cent of the relevant workforce to vote for statutory recognition. It has always been the case that Labour's policy is that which has been duly passed by the party's conference. If that is no longer the case, Mr Blair should say so.

Under new Labour there would indeed be a "strikers' charter". Labour would allow strikers to claim unfair dismissal - a privilege never before enjoyed by the unions in Britain, even when Michael Foot was Employment

On Wednesday we will set out our proposals on industrial relations which will protect the public from excessive strike action, in contrast to Labour's plans to give the unions the favours they have demanded.

Yours faithfully, IAN LANG (President of the Board of Trade), House of Commons. March 31.

Economics and voters From Ms Mary Russell

Sir. I note that new Labour is pointing out warnings in yet another report by "experts" predicting economic pitfalls

ahead (details, March 25). I cannot help but think that if the Chancellor had listened to the pronouncements of such "experts" our present economic wellbeing would

have foundered months ago. There is one sure way to continue the present prosperity and avoid the predicted disasters: re-elect the Government, and with it a Chancellor who listens to his own finely-tuned instincts rather than to so-called experts or the equally uninspired pronouncements of new Labour.

Yours faithfully, MARY RUSSELL. 5 Cedar Road, Sutton. Surrey.

March 25. From Mr Maurice Fitzpatrick

Sir, You report (Election 97, March 25) on the manifesto of the Communist Party, which calls for an income tax rate of 50 per cent on incomes over

In 1982-83, the last year of Lady Thatcher's first term, the top rate of tax on earned income was 60 per cent; this applied to income in excess of £31,500. Allowing for price inflation, the starting point for Lady Thatcher's 60 per cent top rate was broadly similar to the starting point for the 50 per cent top rate proposed by the

Communist Party. Furthermore, in 1982-83 unearned income could be taxed at up to 75 per cent: half as much again as the top rate now proposed by the Communist

How far the debate on tax has moved. In the space of just 15 years, high marginal tax rates really do seem to have disappeared for good.

Yours faithfully, M. C. FTTZPATRICK (Head of Economics). Chantrey Vellacott (accountants). Russell Square House. 10-12 Russell Square, WCl. March 25.

Business letters, page 29

Care of the elderly

From Mr Peter Ort

Sir. Put simply, the problem about caring for the elderly (letters, March 19) is that it offers no route to that "quick fix" which props up so many ministerial boasts about the effectiveness of the NHS. "X million patients treated last year" may sound impressive enough, but long-term care for the elderly spoils such figures.

Those of us who believe it to be a vital issue are obliged to go on repeating that in Britain today there really is such a thing as society, and that society owes a duty of care to its senior members.

Yours faithfully. PETER ORR, 17 Berkley Drive, Guisborough, Cleveland.

Homosexuality in the Armed Forces

Sir, I note with some concern your Forces, Mr Nicholas Soames.

Outrageously homophobic quotations from serving men were included in the HPAT report to justify its conclusion that the ban on gays in the military should remain. At the time neither the Defence Minister nor any of the Chiefs of Staff appeared to be in any way embarrassed by the level of homophobia disclosed. As Michael Brown. MP, said in the course of the debate on the report "prejudice is prejudice, whether it is racial or sexual, and prejudice is wrong. It must be

So far neither the Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Michael Portillo, nor Mr Soames, nor Sir Jock Slater, the Chief of Naval Staff, have provided the leadership required if the barrackroom culture of the forces is to begin to be changed to bring it into line with the culture of the rest of society.

Your report of March 24 that senior Army officers and top civil servants at

From Mr Martin Bowley, QC

reports of March 24 and 25 on the Army's attitudes to homosexuality, followed by today's letter from the Minister of State for the Armed

I recall the welcome and positive response only last week from the political and military leaders of the Ministry of Defence to the survey from the Office for Public Management, which found that racism is endemic in the Armed Forces (report, March 21). This was in striking contrast to their response a year earlier to the Homosexuality Policy Assessment Team's report (details, March 5, 1996). That document revealed a shocking degree of blatant and strident homophobia within the Armed Forces.

the Ministry of Defence are drawing up a new code of moral conduct which would effectively remove the ban on homosexuals serving in the Armed

Forces is to be warmly welcomed by

all but the most prejudiced observers. But I suspect that we must wait until after May I for the changes of personnel which alone can provide the necessary political impetus.

Yours etc. MARTIN BOWLEY (President. The Bar Lesbian and Gay Group). 36 Bedford Row, WCI. March 26.

From Mr Ben Dunn

Sir, Nicholas Soames suggests in his letter that homosexual orientation or behaviour amongst service personnel would "risk undermining the combat effectiveness of our troops and their ability to meet the defence needs of the

I am at a loss to understand how the

risk arises. To deny this group of people the right to serve the nation is surely also to ignore the best interests of the na-

Homosexuals have helped to ensure the efficacy of the British Armed Services for years. It is time this is recognised and their actions commended. Yours faithfully,

BEN DUNN, 53 Byron Mews Fleet Road, NW3. March 26.

Prejudice and care of the young

From Mr Brian Simpson

Sir. Mr A. P. Millard, the Headmaster of Giggleswick School (letter, March 27), asks what messages are being sent to young people and their parents by the Army's movement towards removing its ban on homosexu-als and by the Scouts' decision to accept them as leaders.

The answer, I would suggest, is as follows: that prejudice is wrong, that human beings should be judged by their qualities and their behaviour and that all people are capable of being decent and moral.

I am sure these are messages which Mr Millard would applaud, and if he is not already sending them to his own pupils I trust that he will now make a

Yours sincerely BRIAN SIMPSON, 50 Milton Park, No. March 27.

Lay magistrates

From the Chairman of Council of the Magistrates Association

Sir, Contrary to the views expressed by Mr Michael Gould of Staffordshire University (letter, March 25), lay magistrates are well trained, are members of, and represent, their local communities and administer justice to their fellow citizens with fairness and integrity, dealing with 99 per cent of all cases which come through the courts.

Local advisory committees must satisfy the Lord Chancellor's requirements and recommend to him for appointment a cross-section of people from the local community, keeping a balance of gender, type of employment and various other characteristics. They are particularly concerned to recruit magistrates from local ethnic groups and in the last few years the percentage of these has been 7 per cent, a greater percentage than in the total population.

Newly appointed magistrates undergo comprehensive training before they start to sit in court and all magistrates have to train regularly.

Yours faithfully. ANNE FULLER, Chairman of Council. The Magistrates' Association, 28 Fitzroy Square, Wl.

From Dr Gabriel Alexander Khoury

Sir, In their letters of March 21, Dr Martin Cragg, of the Institution of Highways and Transportation, and Lord Berkeley. of the Railfreight Group, question the London Expressways' proposal for reducing surface traffic in London by means of a road tunnel network linking the motorways across and around the capital. They do so chiefly on the grounds of cost and the disruption to traffic that would be caused by the construction of the tunnels.

Surface traffic will be restricted,

From Mrs E. M. Melody

Sir, I feel that Mr A. P. Millard may be confusing homosexuality and paedophilia. If he believes that a scout leader might, on account of his homosexuality, corrupt those in his charge he is equating a legitimate form of sexuality with sexual deviancy.

The danger of moral corruption is, furthermore, neither more nor less acute than that of a male heterosexual teaching a class of schoolgirls.

I fear for the pastoral care of pupils confused about their sexuality when a headmaster expresses such views under the banner "common sense and moral judgment".

E. M. MELODY (School Nurse), The Manchester Grammar School, Manchester M13 OXT. March 30.

From Mr C. G. Linssen

Sir, If we can improve the selection of magistrates, why criticise the principle of the use of this quick and

on uniformity in magistrates' proced-ural and sentencing policy need to be

tion amongst magistrates. Yours faithfully, CLIVE LINSSEN. Langdale Hall, The University of Manchester, Upper Park Road, Victoria Park, Manchester.

London's traffic

These obvious issues have, of course, been addressed by the team at Imperial College where London Expressways was conceived more than six years ago. Since then eight worldclass companies, including Amec, British Telecommunications and Kvaerner, have supported the project. As the President of the Institution of Civil Engineers pointed out in his letter of March 11, it will significantly reduce long-distance vehicular surface traffic in London, while markedly improving access underground for essential vehicular trips.

enabling local authorities to reclaim streets for pedestrians, cyclists and bus services, resulting in significant

economic form of justice, and make victims and defendants wait longer and at greater cost for trial at Crown

In order to appear to be fair, we should certainly aim to draw magistrates from a more representative cross-section of society. But perhaps the most significant influence on a magistrate is the general attitude of the specific bench to which he or she belongs; there is no proven correlation with his or her social background. More nuance and clarity are required in the application of selection criteria of "suitability" and "balance". Checks

strengthened. Jury quality, too, is dependent on effective selection. Women and ethnic minorities are under-represented on juries: a far greater concern, I would suggest, than their under-representa-

improvements to the surface environ-

ment, air quality and character of the

Improvements in public transport

are essential, but it is a fallacy to

assume that this alone will solve

Contrary to Dr Cragg's suggestion.

the tunnels will not involve a signifi-

cant disruption of services, as they

will not use the "cut and cover"

method but he bored deep beneath

existing facilities. Disruption to the

surface would be minimal for a pro-

ject of this scale and certainly less than

the disruption caused by the current

upgrading of the North Circular road.

they could also be orbital, as in the

case of the Paris and Stockholm

The cost of the system, which will be

complementary to public transport and integrated with it, would be more

than recovered by tolls and by

environmental, social and economic

G. A. KHOURY (Project Director,

Department of Civil Engineering.

London Expressways), Imperial College of Science,

Technology and Medicine.

Imperial College Road, SW7.

Yours faithfully,

The tunnels need not only be radial;

London's traffic problems.

From Mr J. F. K. Hinde

good example?

Yours sincerely, JOHN MURPHY,

4 Sparrow House,

73 Cephas Avenue, El.

Travel made easy

Sir, Together with Virgin Atlantic you published today an exclusive com-petition which offers the winner nights at the Sabi Sabi Private Game Reserve, including flights from Johannesburg "to the reserve, adjoining the Kruger National Park". But to win an entrant must first correctly answer the question "Sabi Sabi adjoins which National Park? (a) Serengeti (b) Kruger (c) Hwange". Wow - that's a tough one.

Yours faithfully, J. F. K. HINDE, Ryder House, Copsem Lane, Esher, Surrey.

In every pie

From Sir Anthony Alment

Sir, Isn't it odd that while all these TV cooks seem to use their fingers for everything (recently I saw one of them even mixing a drink with a podgy digit), we ourselves are constantly being urged to pay strict attention to food hygiene?

Yours faithfully, ANTHONY ALMENT, Winston House, Boughton, Northampton.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.



COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE April 1: The Hon Mary Morrison has succeeded Lady Abel Smith as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

CLARENCE HOUSE April I: Dame Frances Campbell-Preston has succeeded the Hon Mrs Rhodes as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

Today's royal engagements

Princess Margaret, as President of the Guide Association, will open the new Alton Westbrook District Guide Headquarters, Chawton Park Road, Alton, Hampshire, at

The Duchess of Gloucester wil The Duchess of Gloucester will open the Bennion Centre and the Bradgate Mental Health Unit at Glenfield, Leicester, at 3.00; will open the Royal Leicestershire, Rutland and Wycliffe Society for the Blind's Welcome Home Project, Eyres Monsell, at 4.00; she will not be the statement of the statem vill open the Hinckley and District Museum, Hinckley, at 65% and, as Patron of the National Association of Gifted Children, will attend a dinner at the Hanover international Hotel at 7.35 to mark the association's 30th anniversary. The Duke of Kent will visit the Welsh Council for Voluntary Ac-tion, Llys Ifor, Crescent Road, Caerphilly, Mid-Glamorgan, at 12.05; will visit Ocean Technical Glass, Cardiff Bay, at 2.15; will visit Techniquest Science Discov-ery Centre, Stewart Street, at 3.15; and, as Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, will attend a dinner at the Masonic Hall, Guildford Street, Cardiff, at

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Charlemagne, King of the Franks and Holy Roman Emperor 801-14, Aix-la-Chapelle, 747; Giovanni Casanova, adventurer, Venice, 1725; Hans Christian Andersen, storyteller, Odense, Denmark, 1805; William Holman Hunt, painter, member of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, London, 1827; Emile Zola, novelist and critic, Paris, 1840; Sergei Rachmaninov, composer and pianist, Oneg, Russia, 1873: Max Ernst, Surrealist painter and sculptor, Brühl, Germany, 1891; Marvin Gaye, singer, Washington

DEATHS: Samuel Morse, painter and inventor of the telegraphic code bearing his name, New York, 1872; C.S. Forester, novelist, Fuller, ton, California, 1966; Georges Pompidou, President of France 1969-74, Paris, 1974. Argentina invaded the Falkland

Recorders

The following have been appointed

E H Bailey, J K Benson, Mrs M O

South Eastern Circuit

Bickford-Smith, Miss M R Bowron, W Boyce, B M Bucknall, QC, P Clements, J L Cohen, M G Collins, QC, Professor R F Cran-ston, L S Crawford, A J C Lord Meston, QC, P B Morgan, The Hon I J C Peddie, QC, S R Powles, QC, D J Rennie, P E B M Rueff, NA Stewart, N Sweeney, PJ Talbot, QC, N J M Teare, P R

Western Circuit P G N Badge, J E Bullen, A V Chubb, A M Davies, P R Garlick, QC, Captain D R Humphrey, P J H Towler, A R Thornhill, QC.

Thornton, QC, I K R Wilson, R L J

Premium Bonds

The £1 million prize in the Premium Bond draw for April was won with bond number 67MZ 837234. The winner lives in Strathclyde, and has a bond holding of

Birthdays today

Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, 54; Sir Jack Brabham, racing driver, 71; Sir Graham Bright, MP, 55; Mr Linford Christie, athlete, 37; Air Marshal Sir Geoffrey Dhenin, 79; Captain Sir Richard Dobbs, former Lord Lieutenant of Co Antrim, 78; Sir Christopher France, civil servant, 63: Miss Catherine Cas-kin, author, 68: Mr Brian Glover, actor, 63: Mr Raymond Gubbay, concert promoter, 51; Sir Alec Guinness, CH, actor, 83; Viscount Hambleden, 67; Mr Tim Haynes. Headmaster, Monmouth School, Gwent, 42; Mr Barry Hills, racehorse trainer, 60; Sir Ian Hunter, impresario, 78: Miss Penelope Keith, actress, 57; Sir Peter Middleton, deputy chairman, Barclays Bank, 63; the Marquess of North-Bank, 0.5; the Marquess or Fronta-ampton, 51; Major-General C.J. Popham, 70; Mr A.C. Puddephan, former general secretary, Liberty, 47; Mr M.G. Rizzello, sculptor and coin designer, 71; Sir Denis Rooke, FRS, former chairman, British Gas, 73; Lord Skelmersdale, 52; Miss Sue Townsend, writer, 51; Mr Denis Tuohy, broadcaster, 60.

Surrey Lieutenancy

Mr Adrian Sanders, of Buckland, and Colonel Nicolas Davies, JP, of Haslemere, have been appointed Deputy Lieutenants of Surrey.

University news

Lord Nolan, chairman of the inquiry into standards in public life, has been elected Chancellor of Essex University. He succeeds Sir-Patrick Naime who is retiring

Forthcoming marriages

Mr E.J. Powell and Miss P.H. Mobbs The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr and

Mrs John Powell, of West Kensington, and Penelope, younger daugh ter of Sir Nigel and the Hon Lady Mobbs, of Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire. Mr N.P. Backhouse

and Miss A.M. McConnell The engagement is announced between Nicholas Paul, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Backhouse, of Shrewsbury, Shropshire, and Audrey Margaret, daughter of Mr and Mrs Daniel McConnell, of Milngavie, Glasgow.

Mr A.D. Bayne-Jardine and Miss L.H. Dunn
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Colin Bayne-Jardine, of Clifton, Bristol, and Lois, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Dunn, of

Kippen, Stirlingshire.

Mr R.F. Hoult and Miss S.M. Greenwood The engagement is announced between Richard Francis, younger son of Mr and Mrs Francis Hoult, of Worksop, Nottingham, and Sarah Moira, daughter of Lieuten-ant Colonel Roy, Greenwood ant Colonel Roy Greenwood, (Retd) OBE, and the late Mrs Moira Greenwood, of West Ash-

Mr G.R. Lawson
and Miss S.P. Canning-Jones
The engagement is announced
between Gillern, sort of Mr and between Gillem, son of Mr and Mrs Frank Lawson, of Weeton, Yorkshire, and Nairobi, and Sarah, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Canning-Jones, of Chalfoot St Giles, Buckinghamshire. Mr R.A.K. Maxwell

and Miss K.A. Ryan The engagement is announced between Robert, elder son of Brigadier and Mrs John Maxwell. of Hambledon, Hampshire, and Kimberley, daughter of Mr and Mrs Tim Ryan, of Sun Valley, Idaho, USA.

Mr D.J. McQueen Johnston

and Miss L.I. Adams
The engagement is announced between David, only son of the late Mr James McQueen Johnston and of Mrs Sue Ayers, of Wokingham, Berkshire, and Lisa, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.G. Adams, of Lighthorne, Warwickshire Mr P.R. Wells

and Miss H.S. Dresser The engagement is announced between Paul, elder son of Mr and Mrs Richard Wells, of Ruislip, and Hilary, daughter of Mr and Mrs Clive Dresser, of the British Em-bassy, Peking.

Latest wills

Edward David Abel Ram, of London NW1, left estate valued at

E1,243,400 net.
He left £1,000 to the Sameritans and to
the Family Hollday Association.
Waiter Patrick Carless Davis, of
London SWIS, left estate valued at £1,408,892 net. He left £1,000 to Richard Gough to be distributed by him among members of the Fifteen Club of Number 1 Bedford

Colin Hughes Davies, of Chepstow, Gwent, left estate valued at £1,068,232 net.



Painting hidden in book for 60 years

THIS painting, which was hidden inside a book for safety when its owner fled Nazi Germany, is about to bring his widow a £25,000 auction windfall (John Shaw writes). It has been identified by David Breuer-Weil of Sotheby's as *The Cantor*, a rare missing work by Moritz Oppenheim (1800-1882), the first major Jewish artist of modern times. Fewer than 30 of his pictures survived the Holocaust.

The picture had been hastily taken down and tucked in the book when its owner left Breslau for Berlin and the safety of Palestine in 1939. It remained forgotten for nearly 60 years until his widow discovered it, still inside

the book, when sorting out her husband's effects after his death last year.

Not knowing whether it was of any value she took it to Sotheby's Tel Aviv office, where it will be sold on April 24 for an estimated £25,000-£40,000. Mr Breuer-Weil said: "Initially 1 thought it was a very fine picture by an unknown artist worth a few hundred pounds. But there was something about it which reminded me more and more of Oppenheim. After gentle cleaning I examined it under magnification and was amazed to find Oppenheim's monogram. It was very exciting to

Church news

The Rev Duncan Leake, Assistant Curate, St Michael, Stanwix w St Mark, Belah (Carlisle): to be Resident Minister. Chase Terrace The Rev Stephen Mason, Curate,

St James, Great Grimsby (Lincoin): to be Vicar, St Thomas, Southborough (Rochester). The Rev Arthur Middleton, Rector, Bolden: to be also Temporary Acting Principal of St. Chad's College, University of Durham

(Durha The Rev Sandy Miller, Vicar, Holy Trinity. Brompton w St Paul, Onslow Square: now also a Prebendary of St Paul's Cathedral (London). The Rev Jill Newham, NSM.

Peldon w Great and Little Wigborough and West and East Mersea (Chelmsford): to be Priestin-charge (NSM), Bildeston w Wattisham (St Edmundsbury and

The Rev Dr Susan Ramsaran, Curate, Selling w Throwley and Sheldwich, w Badlesmere and Leaveland (Canterbury): to be Priest-in-charge, Plaxtol and Shipbourne (Rochester). The Rev Michael Reavil, Curate, Stevenage St Mary, Sheppall w Aston (St Albans): to be Priest-incharge, Aston. Antrobus, Little Leigh, and Lower Whitley (Chester).

The Rev David Renshaw, Vicar Stoneleigh, St John and Rural Dean of Epsom (Guildford): to be full-time Chaplain to the Scarborough Hospital and St Catherine's Hospice, Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Healthcare

Trust (York). The Rev John Ritchie, Assistant Curate, St Michael Shelf w St Aidan, Buttershaw (Bradford): to be Vicar, All Saints, Owston w St Michael, Skellow (Sheffield). The Rev Anthony Smith, Vicar, Northfleer: to be also Officer of Urban Priority Areas (Rochester).

Royal Society of Edinburgh

Sir John Crofton, who developed the world's first effective treatment for tuberculosis, has been elected as an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

The following have been elected as Ordinary Fellows of the Society: lan James Alexander, Regius Professor and Head of Depart-ment of Plant and Soil Science. Merston Building, Aberdeen University.

Sandra Dorothea Billington, Reader in Medieval and Renaissance Theatre, Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies, Glasgow University.

Ian Rylance Booth, Professor, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, Aberdeen University. Jain Gordon Brown, Assistant Keeper, Department of Manuscripts. National Library of Scotland.

Brian Burthell, Professor of Bio-chemical Medicine, Department of Molecular and Cellular Pathology, Dundee University. The Hon Dame Mary Corsar, Chairman, TSB Foundation, Scot-

Margaret Anne Crowther, Professor of Social History, Department of Economic and Social History, Glasgow University.

Donald Allen Davidson, Professor of Environmental Science, Stirling University.

Geoffrey Durbury, Professor of Chemical Physics, Department of Physics and Applied Physics, Strathclyde University.

Richard Fawcett, Principal Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic Scotland, Edinburgh. George Gettinby, Professor, Department of Statistics and Mod-elling Science, Strathclyde

Timothy Nicholas Trewin Good-man, Professor of Mathematics, Dundee University. Sir Alistair Grant, Chairman, Scorrish & Newcastle, Edinburgh, and Chairman, Biotechnology and

Biological Services Council, Swindon. Peter Mitchell Grant, Professor of Electronic Signal Processing, Department of Electrical Engineering, Edinburgh University. Robert Hawley, Chief Executive,

British Energy. Sir Peter Craft Hutchison, Chair-man, Hutchison & Craft, Glasgow. Neil William Isaacs, Joseph Black Professor of Protein Crystallography, Department of Chemistry, Glasgow University.

Richard Donovan Kenway, Tait Professor of Mathematical Physics, Department of Physics & Astronomy and Director, Edin-burgh Parallel Computing Centre. Edinburgh University. Andrew Lawrence, Regius Profes-

sor of Astronomy, Institute for Astronomy, Edinburgh Univer-Thomas Wallace MacFarlane, Professor of Oral Microbiology and Dean, Dental School, Glas-

gow University.

Ivana Markova, Professor Psychology, Department of Psychology, Stirling University. John Stanley Mason, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Glasgow Caledonian University. Patricia Monaghan, Reader, In-stitute of Biomedical & Life Sciences, Division of Environmental & Evolutionary Biology, Glasgow

William Ivan Morrison, Head Division of Immunology & Pathology, Institute of Animal Health Compton Laboratory, nr New

bury, Berkshire.

James Charles Neil, Professor of Virology & Molecular Oncology and Head of the MRC Retrovirus Laboratory, Veterinary School Glasgow University.

Thomas Hugh Permington, Profes-sor of Bacteriology, Department of Medical Microbiology, Vice-Dean (Research). Faculty of Medicine & Medical Sciences, Aberdeen

Alan David Reginald Phelps, sor of Plasma Physics &. Deputy Head of Department of Physics & Applied Physics, Strath-

chyde Univesity.

Daniel Reid, Professor and Director, Scottish Centre for Infection & Environmental Health, Ruchill Hospital, Glasgow.

David Scarth Ritchie, Director of

Development, James Clerk Max-well Foundation, Edinburgh. Bernard Roberts, Professor of Solar Magnetohydrodynamics, School of Mathematical Sciences, St Andrews University, Edmund Frederick Robertson

Professor in Pure Mathematics, Professor in Fute Americal and School of Mathematical and Communicational Sciences, The Computational Sciences, The Mathematical Institute, St An-

drews University. orews University.

Elizabeth Mary Russell, Professor of Social Medicine and Head of Department of Public Health, Aberdeen University. David Simpson, Chairman, Simpson Research, Tranent,

Peter James Sloane, Professor of-Political Economy, Department of Economics, Aberdeen University. Richard Eric Susskind, Visiting Professor, Law School, Strathclyde University and Special Adviser on Law and Information Technology, Masons Solicitors, London. Paul Trayhurn, Nutritional Bio-chemist, Hed of Division of Biochemical Sciences, The Rowett Research Institute, Bucksburn,

Veronica Van Heyningen, Head of Cell Genetics Section, MRC Human Genetics Unit, Western General Hospital, Edinburgh; Honorary Professor of Medicine,

Edinburgh University.
Nicholas James Wade, Professor of Visual Psychology, Department of Psychology, Dundee University. Anthony Roy West, Professor of Chemistry (Inorganic), Department of Chemistry, Aberdeen University.

Kathryn Anne Whaler, Professor of Geophysics, Department of Geology & Geophysics, Edinburgh University. Brian Benjamin Willetts, Professor of Civil Engineering. Department

of Engineering, Aberdeen University.
Timothy Williamson, Professor of Logic & Metaphysics, Department of Philosophy, Edinburgh Univer-

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MUSICAL.

MIDWEEK RENDEZVOUS

INSTRUMENTS

Lord, out of the depths I have called to you; hear my cry, Lord; let your ears be atten-tive to my supplication. Psalm 130: 1,2

AGATHOCLEOUS - On March 22nd at The Portland Hospital, to Helen and AMMAND - On March 21st at The Portland Hospital, to Mahi and Mahesh, a son, Amer Sayar, a hoother for Shivama and Shalesma. CARCHL - On 23rd March 1997, to Este (née Hammick) and Duncan, a daughter, Flizz Rose Homita.

CAME - On March 27th at The Portland Hospital, to John and Sandra, a son, Seesanah (Joseph) Oisin Edward, a brother for Darcey. Deo

COWAM - On 25th March, to Joanna (née Towers) and Andrew, a daughter, Isabel Claudia. DESSES - On March 28th at The Portland Hospital, to Kate (a6e Abbot-America and Peter, a son, Prederick Hugh.

DORRELL - On March 27th 1997, to Annette (née Taylor) and Stephen, a son, William Edward Charles, a brother for Alexandra and Philip.

EADIE - On March 27th 1997, to Louise (née Barton) and James, a daughter, Poppy. EATON HART - On March 28th 1997, to Helen (née Peck) and Richard, a daughter, Charlotte Olivis.

March, to Antonia and Robert, a daughter, Isabella Valenie Ethenk. Yannia India.

Yannia India.

1997 at home, to Samh (née Griffin) and Robert, a son, Luke William George, a wonderful 9ths Son heuther for Imogen and Jack.

FORBES-REXOM - On March 28th, to Chre (nie Balen) and David, a son, George Frederick John. Produck John.
JOHNST - On March 25th, to
Altison (née Beddard) and
Andrew, a Gaughter, Cairlia
Isabidle Yvette, a sister for
Alexander and James. AREADANCE MODEL AND ANGEL AND ANGEL AND ANGEL AND ANGEL AND ANGEL ANGEL

MASS - On March 26th at The

MEDIAM - On March 11th in Hong Kong, to Viscountess Laura and Viscount Robert Newry, a daughter, The Honourable julia Halen

PARKER - On March 28th 1997 at Queen Charlotte's, to Andrew (Max) and Gillian (née Owen), a beautiful daughter, Lucy Florence, a sister for Alica.

ROSE - On March 28th 1997, to Tori (née Sinclair) and Daniel, a daughter, Georgia Lily Evangeline, a beautiful sister for William.

SHEOFF - On March 29th at The Portland Hospital, to Romila (ase Sehgal) and Jal, a beautiful daughter, a sister for Varun.

TALBOT - On March 28th 1997 in Theard, N.Z., to Charlotte (note Branfoot) and Gary, a beautiful son Louis Alexander, a brother for

VAN PRAAG - On March 27th in London, to Miranda (née Allan) and Lucas, a son, Archie Lucas.

ATKM - Baymond Malpas died 26th March 1997 in BACH. Funeral Service on Friday 4th April at Downs Crematorium, Brighton at 3.15 pm. Fazelly flowers only

BARCIAY - Norman Veitch
Lothian on Friday 28th
March 1997, peacefully
sther fighting a long illness
with typical great
demandation and courses.
Beloved brother of Lothian,
father of James, Rupert,
Jeremy, Maxwell and
Alexander. Sons of Joan
Follock (nee Ogg) and
Theness Buchey (nee of Les
Calcal, grandfather of seven
und a great friend to many.
Frineral service and
crémation take place at
Douglas Crematorius, Isle
of Man, at 2 pm on Thursday
3rd April and will be
followed by a memorial
service in London at a date
to be announced. Family
flowers only please,

flowers only please, donations in lieu if so desired should be sent to St Bridget's Rospice, Kennington Road, Douglas, lake of Man. EARPOND - June pencetally in her sleep on Easter Day at Holypert Lodge. Mother of Virginia, Sarah and Adam and much Jeved grandmother. Committee at Futney Vale Countries at Futney Vale Countries to the Act of the Countries to Holyper Family Howers only at her request Donations to Edick Red Cross, 28 Worple Road, Wimbledon, 5W19 4ER. **DEATHS**

MCOL - On March 21st, to Alexis (née Chapman) and Andrew, a son, Thomas William Edward.

SAMSSTER - On 27th March, to Ben and Lucy, a son, Otiver Robert James, a prother for Riza.

DEATHS

Crematorium, Brighton at 315 pm. Farally flowers only please but donations may be made payable to E.A.F. Benevolent Fund or Fain Management Unit, Rove General Hospital c/o W. Cornford & Son, 180 blanchington Road, Hove, tal: (01273) 737005.

and bravely, supporting
Stephen.
COFE - Himberth having lived
102 years, died pescerally
on Baster Sunday in the
presence of her children by
whom she is deeply
mounsed Priends are invited
to meet at Chandle Parish
Church at 11 am on Prish
the April 1997. Enquiries to
IF. Esster & Son. Chandle,
Starin. tat. (01536) 762264.

BROOKE - On 27th March suddenly at home Kenneth Eobart aged 72 years. Beloved brashand of Doreen, ather to Rigel and Rebecca and gandfather to Deniel and Matthew. Committen at Mortake on Friday 4th April at 120 pm. Pamily flowers only but donations, if desired, to British Heart foundation of Leverton & Sons Ltd. 212 Eversholt Street, NW1 12D. (0171) 387-6075.

BROWN - From Court of the British Geological Sauvey, passed away percetally on March 27th in Oxford, after a short fibers. During husband of Sally and much loved stepfather to Folly and Venn. Fonseni Service at St. Andrew's Church. Old Headington, Oxford, on Thursday April 10th at 130pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Sir Michael Sobell House, many be sent to Revers & Pain, 288 Abingdon Road.

may be sent to Eneves & Pain, 288 Abington Road, Oxford, OXI 4TE.

Pain, 288 Abingdon Road, Oxford, OXI 4TE.
CAMPSHIL. Maureen. I thank God for giving me 21 years with my wife Maureen. She has taught me to become a man with strength and smaitivity to care when it is required, to understand others and most importantly to believe in God. She had a greet sense of fun and a seat for life, despite her own intense iselings, and always had a smile for people. Love for each other is a fine emotion to experience and I feel privileged to have experienced if for so many years. We shall miss her despit. Claffer, had leave the first of The Vintage Wine Lodge, Reber Street, London; Pres Vintage away at the Marie Curie Rospice, Hampstend on 22nd March 1997 surrounded by family. A caring Father, Grandfather, he will be sadly missed by fathly and friends, Pussual Service to be beld at Goldens Green Crematorium on Wednesday 2nd April 1997 at 3 pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Marie Curie Hospice, Lyndhurst Gordens, NWS.
CLETT - On 28th March 1997 Prancis Paul Clift peacetally

CLETT - On 28th March 1997 Cliff - On 28th March 1997
Francis Paul Clift peacefully
at Thames Valley Notfield
Hospital aged 87. Much
loved and mourned by
lawhen, Hugh, Charles and
families. Puneral Service at
Chilterns Crematorium,
Amerikam, on Thurstey hd Californs Crematorium, Amerishm, on Thursday 3rd Apell at 1.30 pm. If desired flowers or donations to Kings College, Cambridge, May be sent to Arnold Funeral Service, 38 Quk End Way, Gerrards Cross, tel: (01758) 891892.

COMBTANCE - Donothy Aston died peacafully at home in Johannesburg Friday 28th March after long disability and bravely, supporting Stephen.

COWIEY-Henry Jack Thomas, peacefully at Ludshort Manor, Branshort, on 27th March 1997 aged 89. Beloved father of km and Pat and devoted gamminther to Beloved father of lan and Pat and devoted grantitather to his four grandchildren. A much respected Quantity Serveyor for many years. He will be greatly missed by his family and many friends. Funeral at West Clandon Parish Church at 1.45 pm Friday 4th April, Family flowers only. Donations to the Macmillan Nurses or Ludshott Manor Trust clo-GM. Left, 84 Lion Lane, Hanlamere, GUZZ 1]H, tal: (074229) 643524. CHMLETE - Lesley Hume, on

(01428) 643524.
CHRISTE Lealey Hume, on March 28th, beloved daughter of Patricia Button and the late Robert J Hume; r. Slaver of Robert and stepmether of Shay, Tondard Stepmether, 10th April 1997, St Etheldreda's Church, Hy Flace, London WCL. Ro flowers, Donation enquiries to Jam Humphris, Banbary, tel: (01295) 265424.

265424.

DARLIMG - On March 29th
1997 Rosemary (Lady),
much loved wife, mother and
grandmother. Funeral St
Mary's Church, Limpley
Stoke, on Saturday April 5th
at 11.30 am. Family flowers
only. Any donations please
to John Hardwick, Uplands,
Bidford Lane, Limpley
Stoke, Bath BA3 6 JE for St
Mary's Church. Also
collection at church.
Cheques payable to St
Mary's Church, Limpley
Stoke.
BAVES - On 31st March 1997

Relief t/o Frederick W. Paine, tel: (0181) 946-1974.

DAWS - Paneda on 31st March 1997 after a long battle against illness bravely bone. She was a wonderful and loving person who will be sadly missed by her husband Gerald, ther nother Ames Les, her son Robert (The Lord Mayor of Westminster), her deaghter Susma and her son-in-law Bradley Grundman, her genadefuldren Cassis and jessica and her brother Sunlay.

BAWSON - Robin Cire sand 61 on March 28th 1997 peacefully at home at Gerrards Cross, Becks. Danly behoved husband of Margaret, wonderful father of Emma and Jamis and much loved father-in-law of Warren. Will be deeply missed by all his landly and friends, Feneral, Service to be held at St Glies Church, Stoke Poges, Bucks. on Priday 4th April at 230 pm followed by a private cressation. Flowers and all enquiries to Arnold Funeral Service, 38 Oak End Way, Germads Cross, Eucks. (tel: 01753 891892) or, if desired dometions in Bohin's memory to Salvation Army, 101 Gueen Victoria Street, London ECAF 4EP.

wished, to And Na Farrighe Narsing Home Newtown. Transcre, Co. Waterford. "I have finished the race; I have redeemed my pledge; I look forward to the prize that is waiting for me the prize I have earned". (The II 4.8).

Stake.

DAVES - On 31st Mench 1997
at the Wimbledon Beammont,
Pamela Mary aged 84.
Beloved wife of Sr. Charles
Davis and much loved
mother of Cards and Liz,
grandmother and greatgrandmother. Funers! at
North East Surrey
Grematorium on Tuesday
8th April 1997 at 3 pm.
Family flowers only, but
donations if decired may be
sent to Macmillan Cancer
Relief u/o Frederick W. Paine,
teh (O181) 946-1974.
DAWE - Paneds on 31st March

FOLEY - Abby (née Dineen) "St Marys" Tramore, Co. Waterford passed away pencafully on Easter Monday 31st March in her 93rd year. Requiem Mass Holy Cross Tranore on Wednesday 2nd April 11.30 an Sadly missed by Paul, Mary and Monica, their families and her grandchildren. Family flowers only, Donations, if wished, to And Na Farrighe Narsing Home Newtown

4.8).
FRY - Patricia Bessia, died pescefully on March 25th 1997. Beloved wife of Jack and deatly loved mother of Elizabeth and Jonathan. Faneral Service on 4th April at St Mark's Church, Church Road, Purley at 1.30 pm. Family flowers only please, but if desired donations to Dr. Cunningham's Cancer Research Fund clo The Royal Marsden Hospital, Satton.
GARDINER - John (Tack)

Marsdem Hospital, Sutton.
GARDINER - John (Jack)
auddenly on 28th March.
Pumeral Service at 5t Mary
Magdaleae, Chewton
Mendip, on Monday 7th
April at 11.30 an Annily
flowers only, donations if
desired for The British Heart
Foundation may be sent c/o
T. Wicks & Son Funeral
Directors, 73 High Street,
Wells, Screenet.
HALL - Peoprictly on March

Directors, 73 High Street, Wells, Sonsenset.

Wells, Sonsenset.

MALL - Peacartally on March
30th 1997 at her home to
Januari Clydegan,
Lampster, Enid Gwendolina
(nde Martin) belowed wife of
John and dear sister of
Cynthia. Public Funeral
Service at Lianfair Clydegau
Church, nr. Lampster,
Thursday April 3rd 1997 at
2 pm. Howens or donations
if desired, donations toward
Taliesin Sungery, Lampster
may be given to Gwilym C.
Price Son & Daughtern,
Funemi Brectors, 1 and 2,
College Street, Lampster,
01570 422673.

HAWKEES - Freds E on 14th

OLSTO 422673.

HAWKERS - Freda E on 14th March 1997. Professor Emeritus in Political Science at the University of Toronto and author of significant works in the immigration field. Her daughter, Rosalind Burktut, of London, England, her sister Sylvis Green of Woking, England together with her fotmer husband Condon, her other relatives, collesques and many friends mouth her possing in her request there will be no funeral service. It would however be appropriate that any expressions of condonner take the form of donations to Oxfan. domations to Oxform.

HANNESS - On 27th March
1997 peacefully at
Blandford Hospital Devid
Richard of Calife Chaford
formative of Vernium Deen,
Hangeldre aged 66 jean.
Most loved and loving
husband, father, stepfather
and grandfather. Funeral
Service at Sr Micholas
Church, Childe Obeford,
Dorset on 4th April at 12
moon. Family flowers only
but domations if desired for
either The Macmillan
Service or Friends of
Blandford Hospital co Colin
J. Close Funeral Sarvice, IB
Salabury Street, Blandford,
Dorset, tel. (01258) 488133.

HUDSON - Bodil Catharina (née Boschen): Loving widow of Sir Edmund Rudson and proud mother of Alan and twins, David and Reison Died on Fedday 28th March 1997 aged 83 years. Paneral Service, prior to cremation, at Church of Good Shephend, Muranyfield Avenue, Edinburgh at 11.30am on Tuesday 8th April. Enquêties to William Parres Faneral Directors 0131-447 5858.

IRWIM - Arthur Eugh Montgowery CEE aged 86. Reloved husband of Phyllis and father of Recempty and Cecil. Peacefully on Easter morning. No flowers. Donations if desired to Parkinson's Disease Society. Requiries to Hicknot? & Son, tel: (01892) 522462.

MacDONNELL - Mauroen (née Liddy) wife of the late John MacDonnell MD. Suddenly, In her 90th year, at home on 25th March. Cremation at the Breakspear Crematorium, Ruisiip on Monday April 7th at 11 zm. Donastions, if wished, to The British Heart Foundation. MillARD - Aliean Margaret, died peacefully on March 27th 1997, aged 97 years. Wife of the late Sidney-Woodfull Milland. Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary's Church, Broomfield, on Friday, April 11th at 11:30sm. Fainly flowers.

MRLER - Barbara Grace (née Paddon), on 24th March 1997 in her 89th year. Reloved widow of Alex, dear sister of Josa, loving mother of Mayaret and Jean and devoted grandmother of Glies Funeral at 3.30 pm on Thursday, 10th April 1997 at City of London Crematorium. Family flowers only but donations flowers only but donation if desired to "Cance Research Campaign" c/o (). Research Campaign" c/o D.W Johns & Sons Funera Directors, 108 Station Road

GARES - On 28th March 1997 at The Royal Infirmary, Richardy, Suddenly, Steel as courageous and spirited flight, Frederick William Angustine (Freddis) aged 78, husband of the late Man Oakse (note Dairiel) ratined Major, Royal Corps of Signals (1941-1975); 2nd 8AS (1943-1946), much beloved father of William and James, father-in-law of Maria and grandfather of Michael and Christopher. Requirem Mass at 5t Andrew's and 5t Cathbert's, Kirktwilbright at 11 am on Monday, 7th April, followed by interment at Sorn-Mondry, 7th April, followed by interment at Sorn-kirkyard, Sorn, Ayrahine at 2pm, Family flowers only but donations, if desired to The Imperial Cancer Research Fund, PO Soc 123, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WCZA 3PE, Enquiries to: Cabonnes (01557) 330441.

PACK - On March 29th pescernily at home Doubty Mary after a long illness borne cheerfully and bavely. Dearly loved wife of Gordon and mother of Susan, Andrew and Caroline, Funeral Service at St Peter and Holy Crose, Whereell, Hampshire, 3 pm April 4th, Family flowers only, but domations in her memory, if desired for Leukaemia Research Fund may be given at the Church or sent to Dunnings, 2 Church Close, Andover, (01264) 334436.

PEPPITY - Née Dumbreli Josum Mary aged 57 years of Bale, near Fakenham, Noriolk. Suddenly on 20th March on holiday in Switzerland Beloved wife of Jim and dearest mother of Jo and John Many thanks to all the hospital staff at Sica, Switzerland for their care and thoughtvilness throughout. Bequiem Mass to take place on Teseday 8th April at 10 am at The Chapel of Reconciliation, Walsingham, Norfolk. All flowers welcome, but donations if desired for Neuro-Singical Research at the Service or to Pakenham and District Funeral Services, Market Eill, Colkirk, Fakenham, NE21 7NU, tel: (01328) 861916.

PERWORTH John David OBE.
Priest, Dearly loved brother
of Stephen, passed away
peacefully at home on
Haster morning. Family
flowers only, but donations
if desired to Southampton
Ranch of the Sen Codes.
Corps. of Punezal Services,
19 The Square, Petersfield,
Hants. Tet 01730 262711.

SACHSE - Signid beloved wife of the late Kenneth at Glebrier on the 26th March 1997 aged 25 years. Will be missed by her relations and friends at Kemerton. Chingford, E4 6AB, tel: (0181) 529-1154.

STODART - Thomas Alexand

BEWAHER - Following her creation there will be a Memorial Service for Unda at 2.30 pm on Emotary April 7th at St George's Church, Weald, near Sevenoaks, Please no flowers. PALMER - Churies pescetally on Sester Day, aged 81, in Victoria, BC. Donations to Victoria Conservatory of

MEMORIAL SERVICES GLOVER - Maud Maxwell Witham, who died 3rd February 1997 aged 82 years. A plano recital in memory of Maud's life will be held at St Lawrence Jewry Church next Gulidhall, Gresham Street, London ECZ on Wednesday 16th April at 12 noon. This is an opportunity for Mand's farflung circle of friends to gather and remember her. Everyoze who knew her will be very welcome. There will be refreshments after the recital.

SERVICES

STEIN - Lily at St Anton, peocetally on March 9th. For long the hospitable and widely loved propietness of the Rossma Stueberi and for over 40 years the hindhearted and loyal triand of hritish Skiets.

STODARY - Thomes Alexander peacefully in hospital on 26th March aged 85. Much loved husband of Peggy, dear hother-halve of Many and uncle of Authony and Augela and their families and of Godzry, Funeral Sarvice at 21 John the Buytist Church, Stoke by Chur, Schillit on Priday 11th Angil at 3 ps. Family flowers only, if desired, donations to MML Poole, Donest.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

THANKSGIVING

SELBY - A Service of Thankagiving for the life of Ralph Walford Selby Esq. CMG, will be held at The Guards Chapel, Wellington Sarracks, on Thursday 24th April 1997 at 2 pm. Those winking to attend should apply for tickets and a car pass if required to the Regimental Adjutunt, Granadier Guards, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1E 6HQ by 9th April 1997. Tickets will be issued after that date.

IN MEMORIAM —

or sag-

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Otto John, secret agent, died in Anstria on March 26 aged 88. He was born in Germany on March 19, 1909.

tto John was undoubtedly one of the most enigmatic figures in the history of Western and German inrelligence. His bizarre story has become a classic spy case of claim and counterclaim, generating a mystery still unresolved at the time of his

Born in Marburg on the Lahn, John was educated in Wiesbaden before going on to study Law at Berlin University. In 1937 he joined the legal department of Lufthansa's Berlin office. His immediate superior there was Klaus Bonhoeffer, brother

As a key member of the courageous group of Germans involved in the plot to assassinate Hitler in 1944, he maintained close contact with the British secret intelligence service, MI6 through Kim Philby. When, on July 22, the plot failed, John, still working for Lufthansa, managed in the nick of time to secure a seat on a flight to Madrid. He thus evaded the Gestapo and the certain torture and death they promised.

From Spain he came to England. where he worked for British intelligence and the BBC. Charming, brave and debonair, he rapidly acquired an impressive set of friends: a talent exploited well in the Third Reich, where his circle ranged from Prince Louis Ferdinand of Prussia, second son to the heir of the Hohenzollern dynasty, to leading Roman Catholic, conservative and left-wing members of the resistance. In London he became friends with John Wheeler-Bennett (for whom he did painstaking research work on the German army). Hugh Carleton-Greene and Maurice Oldfield (later to become a

"C" of MI6). He then returned to Germany where he assisted with the trials of Nazi war criminals, including von Manstein, von Brauchitsch and von Rundstedt. By studying his war diary. John was able to prove that, contrary to his testimony, Manstein had known about the extermination of the Jews. At the same time he assisted in the defence of the former head of the German Foreign Office, Ernst von Weizsäcker (the father of the subsequent Federal Presidenti, on trial at Nuremburg for assisting in the Holocaust. There is some evidence to suggest that he began work for MI5 at this time, helping Sir Roger Hollis to combat Soviet sub-

version. In 1950, having returned to West Germany, John found himself appointed the first head of the West lent of MJS, the Bundesamt für Ver- and abducted against his will. He commemorate the tenth anniversary

OTTO JOHN

fassungsschutz. This post, it emerged thirty years later, had been given to John at the behest of British Intelligence. The West Germans had been invited to put forward names of candidates which the British would then consider. A dozen were advanced, all of which were, somewhat surprisingly, rejected; but the 13th --John's - was accepted. It is hard to believe that references

were not supplied by those British Intelligence officers whom John had befriended. Many West Germans considered him a peculiar choice for such an important job, and he soon turned to drink John himself believed that a connection through marriage to the first President of the Federal Republic had landed him the Drize.

In July 1954, however, while on a visit to West Berlin, John suddenly disappeared, only to re-surface in East Berlin, from where he proceeded to make several bitter and damaging public statements about the alleged ambitions of the new West German leadership and Konrad Adenauer, the first Federal Chancellor, whom he called a neo-Nazi revanchist. Adenauer (at first inclined to believe that John had been kidnapped) was not at all amused.

Although it seemed obvious that John had defected, with all the serious implications for Western intelligence that such a defection carried, a decision was taken to play this down and to support the notion that he had been drugged, even though two zonal border officials had seen John and described him as "cheerful" on this trip East.

The circumstances of that incident have never been completely clarified; and because of the sensitive nature of John's work, many of his activities remain shrouded in mystery.

Certainly there were those who believed that John's presence in East Berlin was a defection, which proved that he had been a Soviet genetration agent ever since the 1930s. Others, however, claimed either that he had succumbed to alcoholism before being duped by the Communists, or. more favourably, that as a genuine German patriot John had allowed his career and reputation to be ruined by his determination to fight a resurgence of Nazism. This latter line was the one taken by many English friends, including Oldfield and Hugh Trevor-Roper (Lord Dacre), as well as John's German supporters, many of whom had suffered for their fight against Hitler and possessed the finest credentials.

On December 12, 1955, the day fixed by the West German Bundestag for an inquiry into John's activities. he sprang a second surprise by reappearing in West Germany, argu-



Otto John outside the courtroom during his trial in Karlsruhe

was immediately arrested, not for treachery, but for acting on behalf of the Communists, and a two-year sentence was requested. The court imposed double this. John tried unsuccessfully on five different occasions to get this verdict quashed. most recently in January last year.

After his release, John went to live in Igls. Austria, in a house owned by Prince Louis Ferdinand. In 1986 the Federal President, Richard von Weizsäcker, granted him a pension which John claimed implied his innocence. After the collapse of the East German regime, John stated that research of the Stasi archives showed that there was no file on him, and argued that this was his final proof of his innocence. Others said that it showed how important he had been, and that his papers had been transferred to Moscow several months before the Wall had fallen.

He stuck to his account for the rest of his life. In his book, Zweimal kam ich Heim, published in 1969, he said

of the plot against Hitler. He claimed that, having been kidnapped in a friend's flat, his only hope of surviving was to play along with the Communists; his radio attack on Adenauer had been a "really big lie" designed to make it obvious that he was acting under duress.

Yet even upon this point confusion prevailed. Some friends, such as Clifton Child of the British Foreign Office accepted John's version. Trevor-Roper, on the other hand, argued that John believed the things he was saying in East Berlin and genuinely feared a neo-Nazi revival. The British journalist Sefton Delmer (who had worked with John during the war) attended one of his East German press conferences and had a private meeting with him; he was in no doubt at all that John was acting of his own free will. Yet Delmer was himself a shadowy figure when it came to Communist affairs and when John reappeared in the West, Delmer changed his testimony and said it

There is no doubt that, whatever Manen, predeceased him in 1991.

his motivation, John had been deeply shaken by the decision to rearm West Germany, and by the way former supporters of National Socialism had been given important posts in the Bonn Republic. In particular, he resented the appointment of General Gehlen, Hitler's former Abwehr specialist on the Soviet armed forces, as head of the second German Intelligence Agency, the BND, or Federal Intelligence Service, at the insistence of the United States. When Gehlen was asked for a view on John in 1954 he replied curtly "once a traitor, always a traitor; a wholly unwarranted slur on John's part in the 1944

For many in the West, the verdict on John was either that he was yet another Communist mole injected into a Western intelligence service, or that he was the victim of a Communist crime and the harsh cruelty of the Cold War. For a few, John was something quite different: a German patriot who rejected Adenauer's vision of a West German part-nation, locked into Nato and the West. because (like a number of others) he saw this state as inhibiting rather than furthering unity.

Yet another explanation is no less plausible. John, like many others of his generation, found himself trapped by the tide of history. Willingly or unwillingly, he may have been caught up in the macabre attempts of Soviet Intelligence to forge a bridgehead in the British secret services. There was no doubt that he fought against National Socialism; but there is no evidence of any great dislike of Communist totalitarianism. This, combined with an uncertain personal life, may have made him an easy prey to a more committed Soviet agent like Philby. If Philby believed that in 1950 he

had managed to get John into a sensitive post, it made sense in 1954. when West Germany was about to join the European Defence Community, to get him to denounce that policy (indeed, the French Assembly voted against West Germany at that time). Equally, such a link might provide the final piece in the jigsaw: the reason why Otto John returned to the West in 1955. It was then that Sir Dick White became "C" of MI6. White's suspicions of Philby were already well-formed. John's defection confirmed his doubts. John's journey back, however, dispelled them - for a time, at least. John deserved credit for the things

he did well, in particular his staunch opposition to Hitler and Nazi ambitions, sustained within the citadels of Third Reich Berlin. The final verdict on his actions after 1944 must await the opening of the former Soviet archives.

HUGO WEISGALL

Hugo Weisgall, composer, died in New York on March II aged 84. He was born in Eibenschutz, Moravia, on October 13, 1912.

HUGO WEISGALL was a versatile composer whose works included song-cycles. ballets, chamber music and large-scale liturgical settings; he was also an effective conductor, administrator and teacher. But it is as one of America's most significant and successful composers of opera that he will best be remembered, Weisgall wrote his first op-

eras when he was barely into his twenties, and in the dozen or so he wrote from 1948 onwards he made an enduring contribution to the genre. Ranging in musical idiom from refined neoclassicism to austere atonal modernism, they are distinguished by the coherence and literary ment of their librettos, the defeness of their characterisation, and the depth of their philosophical ambition; all are extremely well crafted.

Hugo David Weisgall was born into a Jewish family in what is now Ivancice, Bohemia. The family had a strong musical tradition and for several generations had produced cantors and composers. Emigrating to the United States in 1920, they settled in Baltimore, Maryland, where Hugo Weisgall studied at the Peabody Conservatory from 1927 to 1932. He went on to study composition with Roger Sessions and conducting with Fritz Reiner.

Military service brought him to Europe, where he was involved, thanks to his fluency in several languages, in liasing with various governments in exile. He also found time to compose and conduct. and was active in promoting American music to European audiences.

Returning to the United States, he embarked on a teaching career which was to include spells at the Baltimore Institute of Arts, Johns Hopkins University and the Juilliard School; he also served as chairman of the faculty of the Cantors' Institute of the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. From 1963 to 1973 he was president of the American Music Centre. Weisgall began to make his

ELLEN POLLOCK

first performed in 1952: The Tenor, based on a play by Wedekind, and The Stronger, after Strindberg; the latter, a dramatic monologue for soprano, is one of his most intense and impressive works.

Larger-scale operas followed. Six Characters in Search of an Author, a sophisticated treatment of Pirandello's teasing play, was premiered by New York City Opera in 1959, with the soprano Beverly Sills in one of the leading roles. Weisgall's taste for heavyweight literary sources was further evident in Pureatory, based on Yeats and first performed in Washington



in 1961, and Athaliah, after Racine, given a concert performance in New York in 1964.

With those works Weisgall evolved his own idiosyncratic version of musical expressionism, and showed a striking ability to match musical means to contrasting dramatic situations. More ambitious. and ultimately less successful, was Nine Rivers from Jordan (1968, to a libretto by Denis Johnson), a vast, rather diffuse work which attempted to tackle the moral and philosophical questions raised by the Second World War and the Holocaust.

After an opera based on a modern Noh play by Yukio Mishima (Jenny, or The Hundred Nights, 1976), and a 1992 revision of his 1959 opera The Garden of Adonis, Weisgall returned in his final opera. Esther, to the subject of the Holocaust - this time to better effect, treating it in parable form and with convincing restraint. Performed at New York City Opera in 1993, it is due to be revived there next season.

Hugo Weisgall is survived by his when he married shulman, whom he married poser with two one-act operas daughter.

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Company by the creditors on
12th March 1997.
Dated this 12th March 1997
PETER S. DUNN, Liquidator nsolvancy Act 1986 DENT JEWELL LIMITED

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ECI M GEN was appointed Liquidates of the said Company by the
members and creditors on 25th

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4.10-4(6) that on Accts pines 1999.

The intends to make a final return 16 creditors who have submitted girins. By 20th May 1997 and that there will be no further distribution to creditors. The final return to creditors will be made without region to the claim of any person in respect of a debr not already proved.

The company is able to pay all of its known creditors in full.

2.D.Fleming. Liquidator hands. Fleming Liquidator ed: 26th March 1997

Dased 26th March 1997

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Issalvency Act 1986 that a meeting of creditons of the above named Company will be hald at The Institute of Chartwey Accountants, Scotland, 183 Sath Shreet, Gasgow, C2 4810 on 28 April 1997 at 10.30mm for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the mid Act Creditors visibiling to work at the Meeting stabiling to work at the Meeting stabiling to work at the Meeting GERSON, C. 2. AND OF APPRIL
1997 at 10.30am for the purposes montioned in Sections 99
to 101 of the said Act. Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge their proxy, together with a full statement of their debt to the offices of Suchlar Phillips, 84 Geoswaner Street, London WIL 9DF not inter than 12 noon on 25 April 1997. For the purposes of voting, a secured creditor is required (unless he surrendern his security) to ledge before the uneering, a statement; giving particulars of fits security, the date when it was given and the values at which it is assessed. Notice is further given that a list of the names and sufferences of the Company's creditors may be impacted free of charpe, at Beachler Phillips Gray, 144 West Regent Street, Giasgow, 62 2EQ between 10.00am and 4.00pm on the two husbass. days

Ellen Pollock, actress, died on March 29 aged 93. She was born on June

SPIRITED admirer of George Bernard Shaw, Ellen Pollock was said to have played more Shavian heroines than any other English actress. From 1923 when she toured with his plays in repertory, to the last Shaw "first night" in London in 1950 when she appeared in Far Fetched Fables, she ran the gamut of Shaw's characters from Eliza Doolittle to Mrs Warren.

She often sought Shaw's advice on the interpretation of his work, receiving a number of acerbic postcards in reply. She always sent him birthday presents, though he usually disparaged them, even dispatching one to his local village fete and then informing her with cantankerous satisfaction that it had not even sold. Yet, undaunted, she was an active member of the Shaw Society, of which she became president in 1958.

Tall, dark and assured, with a witty mastery of accents unimpeded by her natural lisp, Pollock was a versatile actress. She commanded roles from light comedy to tragic rhetoric. And when not acting she would be directing, or teaching at RADA where she worked for 12 years.

From the age of seven, when she saw Sarah Bernhardt,

NEW PARIS THEATRE

OPENED.

The great new theatre and opera house in

the Avenue Montaigne, near the Champs

Elysees, which owes its foundation to the energy and enterprise of M. Gabriel Astrue.

was opened last night to a large and brilliant

theatre is more spacious and pleasing to the

eye than that of any other theatre in Paris, with the exception of the Grand Opera and the

Theatre Français. There is a large entrance hall and staircase in white and subdued gold,

with frescoes in soft colours on the walls of the

galleries which run round it. The lobbies are spacious halls, and the different storeys are

served by lifts. The auditorium likewise

conveys the impression of being decorated for the most part in white and dull gold. It is very

spacious and beautifully upholstered in dark purple. Every part of the house commands a

view of the stage.

The committee of patronage is international

and includes the Queen of the Belgians, the

Crown Prince of Rumania, the Grand

Duchess Vladimir, the Duchess of Genoa,

Prince Louis Ferdinand of Bulgaria, the Prince of Monaco, and leading repre-sentatives of society in Paris, New York,



Ellen Clara Pollock was determined to be an actress. She eventually made her first stage appearance at the age of 17 as a page in Romeo and Juliet at the Everyman. After cutting her teeth in a number of other small roles she found her passion for Shaw. She accompanied Gertrude

Elliott on a South African tour of typical contemporary pieces before returning to England to take whatever work came along. She proved greatly adaptable. Her longest run was for 18

months in the mid-1930s as Gwen Clayton in The Dominant Sex. She was living in Rochester at the time and used to drive up to London daily in a lurid yellow and orange tourer with clothing to match. Although regularly stopped for speeding, she usually managed to talk herself out of trouble.

The war proved only a minor disruption to Pollock's career. Her chief concession to enemy action was to dismount from her bicycle when she heard the noise of a doodlebug stop — the signal that it was about to land near by. She toured in a number of plays including Noël Coward's Hayfever which she cheekily adapted with topical allusions, and also turned her hand to directing when she played and directed a 1944 Shaw season at the Lyric, Hammersmith. In her spare time she was an ARP driver in Kensington and also worked energetically to provide clothing for bombed out victims of the Blitz. In 1945 she directed and

appeared in a season of Grand Guignol at the Granville Theatre, Walham Green. And, in striking contrast, in 1946 she played Wilma, the wicked witch in The Wizard of Oz. The role included her first experience of flying which she performed with her customary panache, except on one occasion when the harness got tangled and she swung across stage with her head down and her petticoats up. Throughout the 1950s and

1960s she continued to act in a characteristically broad array of roles ranging from Jocasta in Oedipus to Mistress Quickin Henry IV. She appeared notably in three matinees givin celebration of the G. B. Shaw centenary in July

1956. Aside from theatre she also took a number of television parts, including in The Forsyte Saga and The Pal-Ellen Pollock was 62 when

she embarked upon a second career. In 1965 she rented a stall for two months in the Chelsea antique market. She had collected so much bric-abrac over the years, she said, that a stall seemed the perfect solution. It became a regular thing, and she and her sister ran it in partnership, moving eventually to a permanent premises in the nearby Antiquarius. It was there that Michael Aspel turned up in 1993, bearing his red book, for her appearance in This Is Your Life. Ellen Pollock would be found at her stall five days a week up until the end of last year when she fell ill.

She was twice married. Her first husband, Leslie Hancock, was an Army officer. He was killed in action in 1944. A year later she married James Proudfoot, a portrait painter. They lived a bohemian life in Chelsea and in 1970 celebrated their silver wedding anniversary, she wearing a silver trouser suit made specially for the occasion. He died a year later. From then on Ellen Pollock lived alone, taking great pride in her independence and sustained by her faith as a Christian Scientist. She is survived by a son from her first marriage.

ON THIS DAY

April 2, 1913

assembly of invited guests. The interior of the The opening of a new theatre and opera house and the closing of a fashionable restaurant on the same day seem somehow to epitomise the almosphere of the French capital in the last year before the start of the

> London, Berlin, Vienna, Rome and other capitals ...
> The opera chosen for the inauguration of

the theatre was Berlioz's Benvenuto Cellini, which has not been produced on the operatic stage in Paris since its inexplicable failure in 1838, which did more than anything else to discourage France's greatest musician and to prevent him, for many years, from producing anything else. M. Felix Weingartner conducted, and had a great reception. M. Lapelletrio sang the part of Benvenuto Cellini, and Mile. Vorska was a brilliant Teresa. The production was a great musical event, but it

must be confessed that the first night audience was so interested in the general aspect of the house with its brilliant display of beauty and jewels, that the performance hardly received the attention which it merited. It is understood that a great number of subscriptions for boxes and seats, the prices of which range from £36 to £400 for this season, have already been received. A concert season with eminent French and foreign conductors. including Herr Siegfried Wagner, has been arranged, and there will also be a season of the Russian Ballet, with Mme. Pavlova.

THE CAFÉ ANGLAIS CLOSED Paris, April I.

The Cafe Anglais, one of the few historical restaurants of the Grands Boulevards, served its last dinner yesterday, and housebreakers will soon be hard at work demolishing the home of many of the brilliant memories of the dazzling period of the Second Empire.

It was in the Café Anglais that the leaders of fashion and wit were wont to sup or dine, and the restaurant, with its air of well-bred restraint, heavy mahogany furniture, and closely-drawn curtains, was in many respects similar to old English coffee houses. Among the frequenters of the cafe was King Edward, when Prince of Wales.



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88p

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Blair's balt

Preview: Conscripts recall National Service. Army of Innocents

(BBCl, 10pm). Review: Matthew Bond is no April Fool Page 47

No longer is it shocking for people

who have voted Tory all their lives

to say that they intend to give

Italy's proposal for military inter-

vention in Albania has all the mak-

ings of a disaster...... Page 21

The most remarkable thing about the nation's latest obsession is not that Grundy and Pemberton do not.

exist; it is that most back

Norman Davey's Yesterday is no

famous book — no more so not than in the year it was published

1924, during Ramsay MacDonalds

ernment. Its subject is the effection Britain of a left-wing government

promising devolution. The paral-

ers are not exact - but neither are

they exactly inexact....... Page 29

lels between the two Labour lead-

first and short-lived Labour G

Rethink for Rome

Archers on target

PETER STOTHARD

Grundy...

THE TIMES TODAY

Major sets a '20p tax' deadline

■ John Major will today promise to aim for a 20p basic rate of income tax within the next five years as part of a "formula for prosperity" designed to keep Britain booming.

It will be the first time that he has said when he hopes to achieve that goal, and he intends to contrast his deadline to Labour's allegedly vague commitment to an eventual bottom rate of 10p. The expansion of educational choice will also be at the heart of his appeal to the country

Stars urged to give to help the gifted

Pop groups, actors and film stars will be given incentives to give some of their royalties to a fund to sponsor talented youngsters under a plan being unveiled in Labour's manifesto tomorrow. A National Endowment for Science and the Arts would also be partly funded by the Lottery

Thames danger

Boats on the Thames are being warned of an increasing risk of running aground after two years of record-breaking drought and a month of exceptionally dry .. Page 1

Golf clubs are missing out on millions of pounds in jottery grants because they refuse to admit women members, a Sports
Council report says........ Page 1

Expensive handicap

Jail ship go-ahead

The first prison ship inmates since the Victorian age will board HM Prison Weare at the end of the month after Labour endorsed planning approval for its onshore facilities Page 2 ..Page Z

Princess accusation

Diana, Princess of Wales, accused a paparazzi photographer of harassing her when she admitted enlisting a passer-by to remove his film .. Page 3

School crackdown

Teachers launched a concerted attempt to stem the growing level of violence in schools as the two biggest classroom unions threatened not to teach the most disruptive pupils... ..Page 4

Supermac ban

Malcoim MacDonald, the former England footballer Supermac. was banned for two years for driving while three times over the lecal limit

Abandoned in space Nasa, the US space agency, has pulled the plug on the too-costly spacecraft Pioneer 10. launched in March 1972 to explore Jupiter and now more than six billion

...Page 6

Egypt accused

miles away _

Israel's embattled Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu. angrily accused Egypt of "fanning the flames of radicalism" in the Middle East Page 15

Lost signal

Thousands of "off-base" Britons in Cyprus face a future without Cilla Black, Jim Davidson and Mr Blobby after British Forces television began scrambling its signal after pressure from struggling local stations...... Page 15

Power restored

Pakistan's parliament stripped the President of the power - exercised four times since martial law ended in 1985 - to dismiss elected governments and dissolve the national assembly...... Page 16

Marriage target

Thousands of America's illegal immigrants, fearing tough new laws will make it harder to stay, are trying to beat the system using Cupid's arrow...... Page 16

Refugees go home

The return of 31 orphans signalled the start of Germany's forced-repatriation of BosnianPage 6 refugees Page 17

Snouts to get national pay scale

Detectives are to fix a national pay scale for police informers in an'attempt to bring proper accounting to the murky world of the snitch. Tips will be valued using a points system, each point being worth between £50 and £100. Informers could earn up to £3,000: A pay scale, drawn up by a working party. will be put to



Masked IRA men brandish machineguns to the cheers of about 1,000 supporters at a Belfast Sinn Fein rally yesterdayPage 12

Eight years: Robert Feld, the driving force behind Resort Hotels. which crashed with £140 million debts, leaving thousands of private investors mursing losses of more than £20 million, was jailed for eight yearsPage 25

Jobs: More than 15,000 jobs are to be created in the leisure and banking sectors Page 25

Detective work: Kroll Associates, the corporate investigator, is being bought by an Atlanta-based insurance group that specialises in rooting out cheats Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index fell 64.8 points to close at 4248.1. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 98.0 to 98.7 after a rise from \$1.6303 to \$1.6467 and from DM2.7345 to DM2.7497 ... Page 28

Rugby union: levan Evans, the Wales wing, denied reports that he would not tour South Africa with the British Isles if another captain, England's Martin Johnson, was preferred Page 48

Cricket: Mark Taylor, who has struggled with the bat throughout the South Africa tour, is considering standing down temporarily as Australia's captain.... ... Page 48

Footbell: Nathan Blake, the Bolton Wanderers striker, said that he would not play for Wales after accusing Bobby Gould, the manager, of racist remarks Page 48

Racing: Norman Williamson, who has suffered a long series of injuries, appears to be winning his fight for fitness to ride in the Grand National... ..Page 45

L STEEL L Nice guy: Woody Harrelson has played a simple bartender, a

vicious serial killer and now, in The People vs Larry Flynt, a peddler of female flesh. Carol AllenPage 34 meets him.. Rising star: Two years ago David

Eldridge was studying at Exeter University. Now he has two plays behind him and a third has opened in the West End Screamers: Thirtysomething fans

were ecstatic at the Beautiful South's Dublin concert; since the band can't dance, the appeal must be the polished songs Page 35 Eurofest: From Utrecht to St Petersburg and Helsinki to Florence, Gillian Maxey selects the biggest and best of Europe's cultural festivals this summer ..

IN THE TIMES

Geoff Brown reviews

Fever Pitch, the latest

football and cinema

Michael Hofman on

poetry for young people;

Stephen Jay Gould on

evolution's high priest

attempt to fuse

FILMS

BOOKS

Headline makers: Spin doctors with sex appeal. Michael Gove on the election bratpack Page 19

Nigelia Lawson: In theory I am opposed to Barbie, but the awful truth is I rather long for my daughter to enter that phase Page 19

Secret weapon: The shopping trolley now defines the post-feminist spirit of metropolitan women, Grace Bradberry writes Page 18

* SERVE WARKELING Brenda Maddox: Channel 5 offers something different: predictability. It is a service for those who like to collapse in front of the set without consulting a computer grid of information ...

Brian MacArthur: The next four weeks will demonstrate the effect of week of sex and sleaze headlines on voting behaviourPage 37

Dream homes: For 100 years, property has been at the heart of Country Life. Sir Roy Strong assesses its influence on aspirations Page 39

Michael Jackson, Prince, Madonna, Tina Turner: American popular music is not lacking in stars. But

the EU has supplanted the US -

thanks to the excellent health of

British "pop music" - Le Monde

ALAN COREN

Was it or was it not an exemplary Easter Monday? Was I or was I not intoxicated, high up on Hertfordshire's sunlit hummocked Ridgeway, by the palpably thrumming regeneration all about me, things spiritual and natural mystically intertwined as they were seasonally meant to be. God's Son in His Heaven, and bees, birds and buds new-risen?....

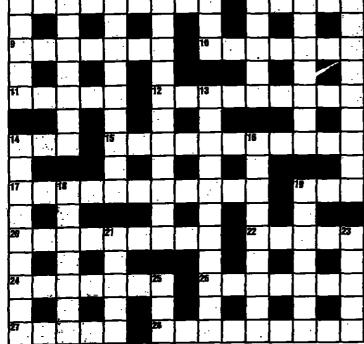
SIMON BARNES

The strongest-willed and most ruthless competitors will always seek to explore the furthest reaches of sporting law. No, not to cheat. Merely to get the greatest possible legal advantage....

Otto John, secret agent; Ellen Pollock, actress: Hugo Weisgall.

President of the Board of Trade responds to Blair's trade union agenda: Homosexuals in the armed forces: Christian traditions and the press......Page 21

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,443



- 1 A bit of body in what might be
- Cheshire cheese (9). 6 Company's milially to settle legal
- 9 A drink for the road? (7). 10 Source of light transmitted by
- relay (7). 11 Plenty of time to muse (5).12 Pain afflicted profitless bargain-
- hunter (9) 14 Finally, one can read conclusion
- 15 Poor sort of existence revealed by Ruth and Tonf out here (4-2-5).

 17 Commuter entering carriage in quiet rage (4-1).
- 19 America's first state? Whichever
- you want [3].

 20 Fiction in an even around end of Marth retigned Christmas (9).

 22 Implicit, classic author's not American (5).
- 24 One offices Sense of opposition, like Billions At and Cassius G? (7).
- Solution to Puzzle No 20.442
- THE THE MIND GROSHER

- 26 Emerge champion rider of white horses? (7).
- 27 Mountain range is a cold place if beginner's abandoned (5).
- 28 Racecourse favourite's warm welcome (3,6).
- 1 Throw off English class system
- 2 Lad confused in opinion that divides the country? (7). 3 It plays a large part in computing, however (9).
- 4 Near water, he destructively fired vessels (11). 5 Sander, perhaps, not finishing as
- well (3). Keen on exercise, so vault (5). 7 Cutting last act of Madam Butter-
- fty (7). Steadfastly combat the flow of lady, taking no notice (9).
- 13 Made an enemy of worker on San Diego building (11). 14 Lenient president's support for
- 16 Choral work unfinished in scholar's inactive spells (9). 18 Got hot in oven (and vice versal)

extended sitting (4,5).

- 19 Artist getting up to fix source of fight (7). 21 Prizegiver's important role
- diminished (5). 23 Article given short measure? It's a crime (5). 25 Mother's ruin's beginning dam-
- age (3). Times Two Crossword, page 48

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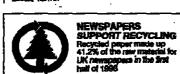
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Generat: England and Wales should have a mainly dry day, though it will be rather more cloudy than

recently. During the late afternoon and evening thickening cloud should bring some outbreaks of light rain to northernmost England. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be rather cloudy with outbreaks of light rain or drizzte. Some brighter spells may occur for a time, es-

pecially in southeast Scotland. More general rain will spread south across all parts during the afternoon. Central S England, E Anglia, Central S England, Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales: dry with bright or sunny spells. Wind light to moderate, west

to southwesterly. Warm. Max 15-17C

DE England, N Wales, Central N England: dry with bright or sunny spells. Wind moderate, west to southwesterly. Rather warm. Mex 13-14C (\$5-57F).

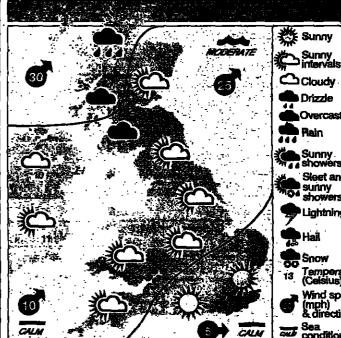
☐ NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee: mostly dry with bright or sunny spells. More cloudy with patchy rain later. Wind moderate to fresh, west to southwest. Ráther warm. Max 12-14C (54-57F). ☐ Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyil, N Ireland: rather cloudy, some patchy

rain or drizzle, more persistent later. Wind fresh to strong, west to southwest, Max 11-13C (52-55F). ☐ Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney: mostly cloudy, rain becoming persistent in after noon, turning showery later. Wind strong to near gale, west to southwest. Max 10-11C (50-52F).

☐ Shetland: mostly cloudy with rain, becoming brighter later with showers. Wind west to southwest near gale, decreasing fresh later. Max 9C (48F). Outlook rain at times, especially for north, wintry showers in northeast Scotland.

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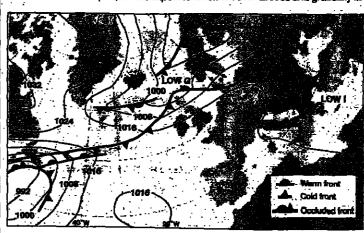
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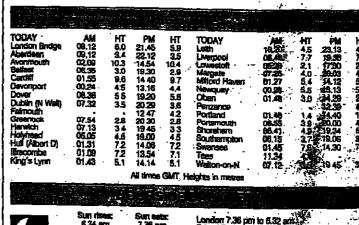
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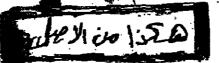
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Changes to chart below from noon; low G will track across northern Scotland into navia and deepen; low I is expected to remain over Greece and gradually fill





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INSIDE SECTION TODAY

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ARTS

Woody Harrelson: actor escaping his nice-guy image **PAGES 34-36**



MEDIA

Seven days of sleaze in the press PAGE 37



SPORT

Why the Lions will be forced to feed off scraps **PAGES 43-48**

TELEVISION AND **RADIO**

PAGES 46, 47

WEDNESDAY APRIL 2 1997

London depressed by Wall Street gloom



Nail-biting time for traders on Liffe

RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

LONDON shares suffered sharp falls yesterday as investors reacted to huge losses on Wall Street over the Easter period, when

the City was closed. However. Wall Street's robust perfor-mance yesterday helped the London market and continental European bourses to bounce back from extensive selling at the opening. In London, the FTSE-100 index closed 64.8 points lower at 4,248.1, the day's best level. At its worst, the index of leading shares had posted losses of more than 100 points.

In an unusual comment on financial market developments. Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, yesterday emphasised that the market's difficulties reflected events on Wall Street rather than fears of an incoming Labour government. In Paris and

dramatic early losses as the Dow Jones industrial average perked up after two days of extreme selling. On Thursday, the Dow lost 140 points followed by a 157-point plunge on Monday when many European markets were closed for Easter, but stabilised yesterday.

The Dow initially fell 34 points, but recovered by mid-morning, to 6,573.66, 9.82 points helow its opening. The rebound began after the publication of the March index of the National Association of Purchasing Managers. Although this rose to 55.0 in March, from 53.1 in February, a sign of quickening expansion in manufacturing industry, the rchasing managers' prices indicator fell to 50.9. from 55.1 the previous month.

This allayed some of the fears that built up on Wall Street after last week's quarterpoint rise in American interest rates that

robust economic growth would lead to higher inflation and, therefore, a string of further monetary tightenings. The purchasing managers' report suggested that, while economic activity remains robust, inflationary pressures are not in evidence.

However, investors remained profoundly cautious about stocks. While there was some relief that European investors did not hit the US market with a wave of selling yesterday, most Wall Street analysts believe the current setback is not over yet.

Tom McManus, market strategist at NatWest markets in New York, said: "This is a correction, no doubt about it. The stabilisation of the Dow shows investors in a flight to larger, safer stocks. The broader market is still falling."

After a decline of more than 4 per cent over the past few days, the Dow is now down by more than 7 per cent from its peak

in January. An increasing number of analysts are turning negative on stocks, arguing that higher US interest rates will inevitably

bear down on first-quarter corporate profits. In Britain, the UK purchasing managers' March report showed manufacturing activity had expanded for the tenth successive month, but at a slower pace than in February. There are continuing signs that the strength of the pound is hurring exports. a worry expressed yesterday by the EEF, the grouping of engineering employers.

However, the pound marched higher yesterday, closing at 98.7 on its effective index against a basket of currencies, compared with 98.0 last Thursday.

Output slows, page 26 Pennington, page 27 Markets, page 28 Anthony Harris, page 29

BUSINESS Today

STOCK MARKET Nikkei New York:

SSS DOLLAR

Tokyo close Yen 123,53 NORTH SEA OIL

London close \$350,45 (\$348.55)

Pubs and bank to create new jobs

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY and Gavin Lumsden

MORE than 15,000 new jobs are to be created in the leisure and banking sectors, it was

announced yesterday.

J D Wetherspoon unveiled a E300 million expansion that will triple the size of the pub group's estate and create 10,000 jobs over five years.

First Direct, the Midland's telephone banking subsidiary, is to create up to 5,000 jobs in Scotland by 2004 with the construction at Hamilton in Lanarkshire of one of the largest call centres in the UK. It is also considering a second site in Greenock, Strathclyde. Wetherspoon, which owns 170 pubs, is seeking to open another 350 outlets, focusing on disused city centre sites such as old banks - as it spreads out from the South East to Scotland and Wales. Tim Martin, chairman of Wetherspoon, has set a target

of having 1,000 outlets. Of the new jobs to be created, about 5,500 will be part-time. Work on First Direct's 33acre site in Hamilton will begin next month, the bank said yesterday. It already employs more than 3,000 at Leeds and Birmingham. First

The telephone bank was forced to confirm its expansion plans after Michael Forsyth, Secretary of State for Scotland. cited it as an example of the Government's success in attracting jobs to Scotland. Both sites are in enterprise zones that offer generous terms to relocating companies.

Direct says that it is opening 12,000 accounts every month.

Resort chief jailed for

By Robert Miller

which crashed with debts of £20.6 million and in which the £140 million and left thousands of private investors nursing losses of more than £20 million, was yesterday sent to prison for eight years.

Feld, 45, who was also banned from being a company director for ten years, stood with his hands clasped tightly in front of him and rocked on his heels as His Honour Judge Kenneth Zucker, QC, passed sentence at London's Middlesex Guildhall Crown Court.

The former managing director of the Brighton-based company was convicted of three offences of making false statements in financial documents and nine counts of using forged documents. A further four charges were ordered to remain on file after the jury of seven men and four women, who were commended by the judge and excused jury service for life, failed to reach majority verdicts.

Passing sentence, Judge Zucker told Feld that anyone who had followed the case "or anyone who has heard you give evidence will know that you are a man of quite appalling dishonesty." He added: Those frauds were perpetrated, not merely out of desire to keep Resort from going under when otherwise it might well have done so, but I am quite satisfied for your own personal gain.

Francis Whitiaw, a retired Resort investor who lost 5 per cent of his capital and who has closely followed the 80-day trial, said after the verdict: "It has spoilt our lives. It hurts that so many people got caught out. It just hurts." Feld's family, including his wife and sisters, are also understood to have lost substantial sums.

The prosecution was brought by the Serious Fraud Office working with the Sussex fraud squad. The SFO was called in

ROBERT FELD, the driving to investigate a 1992 rights force behind Resort Hotels, issue by Resort which raised company was advised by Coc pers & Lybrand, the accountant, and Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the merchant bank.

City institutions had been forecasting a profit of £6 million and Feld knew he had to meet this figure. Using forged documents, he persuaded the accountants and bankers that Resort's income would produce profits of this

At the time Feld had personal borrowings with NatWest and Midland banks of more than El million and held the largest personal stake in Re-sort of 1.3 million shares. He relied on his salary, bonuses, dividends and the security of his shares to service his borrowings and maintain his lavish lifestyle.

Feld owned two properties in East Sussex, a house in Knightsbridge in the West End of London, and a fourth in the South of France where he also had a yacht moored at Beaulieu-sur-Mer. The court heard that the mooring of the boat alone cost £40,000.

Anthony Evans, QC, prosecuting for the SFO, said: Robert Feld was the driving force behind the business. He was Resort Hotels." Commenting on the sentence, Jillian Glass, the SFO lawyer who headed the investigation, said: This is an excellent message. It tells people that they cannot play ducks and drakes with other people's money."

Michael Coleman, partner of Harkavays, the law firm acting for Feld, who received legal aid to conduct his case, said: "I saw Mr Feld immediately after the verdict. Naturally he was disappointed at the length of sentence which he has to serve". An appeal against the sentence is under consideration.

City Diary, page 29 | cent stake to American Inter-



Robert Feld, managing director and the driving force behind Resort Hotels, was described by the judge as a man of quite appalling dishonesty

Japan bolsters banks after collapse

IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S Finance Ministry sought to restore confidence in the nation's embattled financial system after an affiliate o the troubled Nippon Credit Bank collapsed with debts of 1,060 billion yen (about £5.2 billion), making it Japan's largest single corporate failure. Crown Leasing applied to

the Tokyo District Court with an eleventh-hour effort to two other NCB affiliates, Nip-avert a crisis of confidence in pon Total Finance and Nippon Credit Finance, to be wound up with combined debts of 1.800 billion yen.

NCB, one of Japan's top 20 banks, unveiled drastic measures, including a complete pullout from operations overseas, to clear huge bad loans and rebuild its capital base. The measures were seen as

the banking system after weeks of rumours about NCB's possible collapse. Worries intensified when Moody's Investors Services, the US credit-rating agency, down-graded the bank's debt to

junk-bond status on March 21. NCB specialises in longterm loans to small business and extending mortgage credit. Disclosing the restructur-ing package, Hiroshi Kubota, NCB's president and chairman, said the bank would shut its overseas branches and concentrate on domestic inalso involves selling office buildings, reducing staff and cutting staff pay by up to 30 per cent, with directors taking

The measures call for NCB

a 50 per cent cut.

City sleuth's trail ends in takeover

By Jon Ashworth

KROLL ASSOCIATES, the national Group (AJC) four hard-nosed corporate investigator, has been swallowed by a company that makes its dustbin-sifting exploits look positively tame. The firm is being bought by an Atlanta-based insurance group that specialises in rooting out in-

surance cheats. The deal is set to add to the millions made by Jules Kroll, who founded the Wall Street firm in 1972, and sold a 23 per years ago. The fate of the AIG stake is uncertain. Kroli opened in London in

1985, occupying the former M15 headquarters in Curzon Street, Mayfair, and cashed in on the market for intelligence during hostile takeovers. Now based in Savile Row, it recently joined the City jobs debate. hacking into dealers' personal computers in an attempt to prevent defections. No value has been put on

the deal, which sees Kroll bought by the insurance arm of Equifax, the world's largest consumer credit company. Equifax Insurance Services is being spun off into a new \$587 million company, Choice-Point, and Kroll will form part of the stable.

The companies have been in talks for three years. ChoicePoint assesses insurance claims, and makes medical checks for the life and health industry. Buying Kroll

provides access to international markets. Kroll-watchers will approve of the match. The firm was signed up by Kuwait to track down fragi assets after the Gulf War, and unearthed Lord White's racehorses during Hanson's tussle with ICl. Kroli deals in corporate investigations and business intelligence, while a risk management arm takes in computer services work,

the traditional "convoy syskidnappings and ransom

tem" that requires strong banks to help the weak. Like most other Japanese banks, NCB's problems stem from the property market collapse after a surge of incautious lending during the bubble economy of the late 1980s. Many bad loans that NCB is having to write off were to *jusen* housing loan firms. which were hardest hit by the steep drop in land prices.

capital by 300 billion yen. The

Bank of Japan said it would

buy shares using 80 billion yen from a fund created to

clear bad loans at the failed

jusen housing loan com-

panies. At the urging of the monetary authorities, other

banks are expected to accept

newly floated shares to help to

The rescue, orchestrated by

the Ministry of Finance, of

fered renewed evidence that

the Government remains com-

mitted to supporting banks in trouble, despite the trend of

promoting deregulation and

less government intervention.

Analysts said it showed that

the authorities still clung to

rebuild NCB's capital base.

JOHN PAUL JONES.

Dramatic ups and downs attended the career of the Scottish-born hero of the American Navy (1747-1792).

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House prices up 1%, says Halifax

UK house prices rose I per cent in March, according to the Halifax Building Society. But the UK's largest mortgage lender insisted the housing market is continuing to recover "at only a moderate pace".

The March increase followed a 0.6 per cent rise in February. The Halifax said the average seasonally adjusted cost of a house was now £67,334. Prices were 7.2 per cent higher than the same time last year. "Despite a sharp rise in house prices in March. UK prices are still 4.2 per cent below their peak in May 1989," a Halifax spokesman said.

"Though we again confirm that the market is continuing to recover, this is still at only a moderate pace." Last week Nation-wide said house prices rose L6 per cent in March.

Bars launch

Surrey Free Inns said it is to launch a new brand the "Bar Med" café bar. Tony Hill, Surrey Free Inns managing director, said: "Bar Med will complement the group's existing pertfolio in that they will be located in town centres and will be focused on trade from the business community by day and the pre-club crowd by night."

Stadco sale

Hall Engineering said it has sold the assets and business of Stadeo Automation for around £8.4 million to Estil. Stadeo is involved in the design and manufacture of automated assembly and welding systems. Its operating assets to December 31 were £1.1 million with operating profit, prior to allocation of central costs, at £1.8

Plysu deal

Plysu, the paper and packaging group, has bought Ward Products, a manufacturer of plastic gardening products at Darlaston, West Midlands, for just under £1 million.

Rules and Conditions



PETER HORTON, managing director of Hit Entertainment, the children's cartoon programme maker that floated on the Alternative Investment Market in July last year,

with some of the group's characters. Hit vesterday reported a 91.5 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £1 million (£527,000) for the year to December 31. Sales rose 16.7

per cent to £11 million (£9.4 million) and earnings per share were up 73.5 per cent to 5.95p (3.43p). A maiden final dividend of 0.5p a share will be paid on June 11.

Suez shareholders seek large merger payout

FRENCH industrialists were last night engaged in a struggle for power and money over plans to merge Compagnie de Suez, the holding company, and Lyonnaise des Eaux, the utilities group. Jean-Louis Beffa, chairman

of Saint-Gobain, the glass manufacturer, said Suez's shareholders wanted a large payout if the merger goes ahead. With tensions mounting over his demand, and over other aspects of the deal, Suez cancelled a press conference on its 1996 results, scheduled

for this morning.

Analysts said the lastminute cancellation was a sign of the difficulties that hadarisen over what would be one of the biggest financial trans-

Last week, Suez and Lyon-

naise des Eaux confirmed market speculation that they were involved in merger talks. Both companies are to hold special board meetings on April 11 to discuss the deal.

Lyonnaise, which consists of holdings in the water, energy and construction sectors. needs a cash injection if it is to make up ground on its wealthier rival, Générale des Eaux. Last night, Suez was expect-

ed to issue a communiqué confirming that it has the financial assets to enable Lyonnaise to expand. The group has assets of Fr34 billion and a

... It's he insiness

would result from the tie-up would be among France's ten biggest companies and one of the most powerful players in European utilities. Lyonnaise, the smaller of the two, will absorb Suez. Investors are likely to receive about two shares in Lyonnaise for each Suez share, with a dividend for Suez shareholders.

At a press conference yesterday, M Beffa said shareholders should be given a payout of about 10 per cent of Suez's financial assets. "I think that it would not be bad for Suez shareholders, given the disapcash pile of Fr5 billion.

Founded to oversee the Suez the nast and given the betthey canal, the company lacks a are ready to take to put their clear strategy after selling integral assets behind a new Indosuez, its property portfolio and its investment bank. And sonable share, by redistributlysts say the conglomerate that ing financial assets to them."

He said Saint-Gobain, which has a 6 per cent stake in Suez, had the support of Axa-UAP, the insurer, and Banque Nationale de Paris, the bank-ing group, which have similar stakes. Générale des Eaux, which opposes the merger, is also likely to back the request. However, the sum demand-

ed by M Beffa will spark fierce arguments behind the scenes. For Lyonnaise, the deal would lose much of its interest if Suez uses its cash pile as a sweetener for shareholders. Other difficulties also remain. Under the original plans, Jerôme Monod, the Lyonnaise chairman, was to head the new conglomerate, with Gerard Mestrallet, the chairman of Suez, becoming director-general. These plans are thought to be under negotiation.

may have to cut jobs in a.

drive to stay competitive

because the strength of ster-

ling has hit its export

The warning came after a

marked deterioration in ex-

ports in the first three

months of this year and

amid fears that imports

would further eat away at

The EEF, the grouping of

engineering employers, highlighted the impact of sterling from a survey of more than 1,700 companies.

It showed a fall in the export order balance to -2

per cent in March compared

with +9 per cent in December. The fall is only the

second time in three years that a negative balance for

Graham Mackenzie, Di-

rector-General of the EEF,

said: "If sterling remains at its current level there has to

be a concern that export

threatened and import pene-

tration of the home market

will rise, unless the UK industry can out its cost base

orders has been recorded.

the UK industry.

Rate of output growth slows down

By Alasdair Murray

THE manufacturing sector grew for a tenth successive month in March, although the rate of growth slowed to its lowest level since last summer as companies shed jobs to keep costs under control.

The Purchasing Managers Index fell from 53.4 in February to 529, although it was above the 50 points level that indicates the sector is growing.

The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS), which prepares the figures, said the slight decline was a result of the first drop in manufacturing employment for almost a year.

The strong pound is also holding back growth, with exports running at levels below those seen in the last quarter of 1996, although a pick-up in European markets led to a slight improvement in last month's export output figures.

The surge in sterling has also helped to keep the lid on factory-gate inflation, with the price of raw materials falling for the seventeenth month run-ning, according to the CIPS survey. Manufacturers are also continuing to destock.

Economists said that the figures were unlikely to alter the outlook for rates - which are predicted to rise after the election. The Bank of England is likely to be concerned by the strong rise in domestic demand that has been the engine behind manufacturing growth in recent months. But Simon Briscoe, UK economist at Nikko Europe, said that the fall in employment suggested that manufacturers still believe the recovery is fragile and growth is only likely to continue at a moderate pace.

Growth in the housing man ket slowed slightly in February, according to data published by the British Bankers Association. Seasonally adjusted net lending figures rose £743 million, compared with £806 million in January. New approvals rose 9 per cent to 34,529 with the average value of approvals rising 10 per cent compared with January. But both figures were down on the 32 per cent rise in the number and value of transactions recorded a year ago.

omist at the organisation, said

that the strength of the pound would have an impact on all

aspects of engineering businesses, including jobs and

other costs, if it continued to

industry will emerge over the

course of the year because of

the long lead times involved in

results for the first quarter of 1997 give concern. There are

clear signs that export orders

are slowing ... we shall not see the full effect of this

change in the UK's relative

competitiveness for many

although the pace has slowed

this year. New orders in-

creased 13 per cent in March

compared with 15 per cent in the previous three months.

engineering group involved in the defence business and luxu-

ry cars, said that the strong

pound would knock between

£6 million and £7 million off

its profits this year.

Last month, Vickers, the

Engineering output in general has continued to grow

ngineering. Mr Mackenzie said: "The

The real damage to the

depress exports.

Engineering jobs

warning as strong

pound hits exports

By Christine Buckley, industrial correspondent THE engineering industry further." Alan Armitage, econ-

BUSINESS FOUNDUP

Newcastle United premium expected

SHARES in Newcastle United are expected to open at a modest 10p to 20p premium to the 135p flotation price when dealings begin today. At a market value of £193 million, however, Newcastle will be second only to Manchester United in terms of market value. Manchester is worth about £418 million on the stock market. Chelsea, number three in

the financial league is worth £189 million.

Proceeds from the Newcastle United float have been earmarked for reducing club debt, paying transfer fee instalments and boosting Newcastle's youth development scheme. Take-up from Newcastle fans proved so strong that the club was unable to give any of the 15 per cent tranche of the shares set aside for its retail offer to the public. Only applications from season ticketholders and other preferential groups, such as existing shareholders, were successful. The remaining 85 per cent has been taken up by institutional investors.

Sci back in the black

SCI ENTERTAINMENT, the video game producer, registered a pre-tax profit of £504.210 in the six months to December 31. compared with a £1.6 million loss in the 16 months to June 30, 1996. The group turned round from a 15.67p loss per share to 3.54p of earnings, although there is no dividend. Jane Cavanagh, managing director, said: "I am delighted to announce this excellent first-half performance, following a highly respectable Christman trading region." following a highly respectable Christmas trading period. We are already excited about the prospects for our highly controversial racing game, Carmageddon, due out in May.

Heavy trading in Bre-X

SHARES of Bre-X, the gold mining company, opened briefly yesterday after their suspension on the Toronto stock market. but stopped trading because the exchange's computers could not handle the massive order flow. Eight million shares. changed hands in the first half hour. The shares continued to trade in Montreal and Alberta and rose C\$1.35 to C\$3.85. Bre-X's shares collapsed last week on reports that its Indonesian mine may have far less gold than previously thought. The Canadian authorites are waiting for a full report on the size of the gold deposits before deciding on a full inquiry.

Olympic deal for SEA

SEA MULTIMEDIA registered net income before tax for 1996 of \$713,066, compared with a loss of of \$342,888, on sales up from \$729,653 to \$3.9 million. There is no dividend, but earnings per share reached 3.30 cents from 1.87 cents of losses. SEA, listed on Aim, has signed an agreement with the International Olympic Committee for rights to publish multimedia products using Olympic logos until December 31, 2000. The company says that it will bring three or four games to the market during 1998. The company also believes that the multimedia market is at the start of an expansion phase.

Trial for cancer 'cure'

CORTECS INTERNATIONAL, the drug development company, hopes to start human trials next year of a new group of molecules that it says appear to be effective against cancer. Cortecs told a conference in Germany that in studies carried out with the CRC Centre for Cancer Therapeutics at the Royal Marsden Hospital the so-called Cellcom molecules had shown anti-tumour activity against ovarian, lung, colon and breast cancers. Cortecs said that in laboratory tests its lead compound inhibited the growth of human ovarian turnour without clinically observed toxic effects.

Pillar Property sale

PILLAR PROPERTY INVESTMENTS is raising. million through the sale of a 100,000 sq ft office building in Bracknell. Berkshire, to the Teachers Insurance & Annuity Association, of America. The consideration for Mercury House, which is almost midway through a 25-year lease to Mercury Communications, represents a net appearable of meanly 8 per cent. Pillar, which acquired the property in 1991, will redirect the proceeds of the disposal into further will redirect the proceeds of the disposal into further acquisitions in the retail sector.

Society offers jobs aid

NATIONWIDE Building Society is launching a job search service to help unemployed mortgage borrowers to return to work. The new service is part of Paymentguard, its mortgage protection product. The service would normally cost £100 and will be provided free to insured Nationwide customers who become unemployed. Nationwide said that with periods of unemployment lasting on average eight months, customers require not only financial assistance but practical help to find work.

Triplex Lloyd deal

TRIPLEX LLOYD, the UK specialist castings group, has acquired the business and assets of Feingusswerk Bochum, the German castings company, from Thyssen Guss AG, for an initial £6 million cash. Feingusswerk manufactures cast blades and vanes for turbine engines. An additional payment of about £3.6 million will become due if certain turnover targets are met within the next five years. Triplex said it would set up a subsidiary named TFB Feingusswerk Bochum GmbH to operate the business.

Yorkshire Water tax up

YORKSHIRE WATER'S tax charge is expected to be £6 million higher in the year to March 31 after its Yorkshire Water Services subsidiary entered into long-dated finance lease facilities totalling £265 million. The deals will raise the tax charge in the early years but this will be more than offset in the medium term by significant interest savings, which continue over the life of the facilities. The facilities have maturities of 25 and 35 years and form part of the financing of YWS's capital expenditure programme.

Clothes shopping catalogue launch next year

M&S moves nearer home

By Sarah Cunningham

MARKS & SPENCER, the high street retailer, confirmed resterday that it is to launch home shopping catalogues offering its range of adult clothing. The move is sure to stir up the already highlycompetitive home shopping

The company, which controls around 16 per cent of the UK dothing market, will begin regional tests of the catalogues, which will feature selected adult clothing, in a

It said it is responding "to the increasing desire for cus-

tomers to shop from home". Closely watched by the rest of the industry, the company has had a team on the project for over a year. Industry insiders had expected trials to start as early as this autumn.

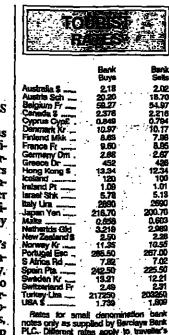
Marks & Spencer said yesterday it will launch a national campaign this summer to sell its schoolwear range by catalogue after trials last year. The home shopping opera-

tion has been developing a wholly-owned facility in War-rington, Cheshire. Order-taking and fulfilment capacity is being built and recruitment of staff has already begun. It will make use of the database built

up on its five million M&S account cardholders. Marks & Spencer has already developed a busi-

ness delivering home furnishings, flowers, hampers and wine direct to customers' homes, with turnover totalling £85 million. Business clothing is also sold by

In the wake of Next's success in selling its clothing through its Directory. the Burton Group is also developing catalogues offering clothing from its Dorothy Perkins, Principles, Burtons, Top Shop, Top Man and Evans chains.



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Surfing Wall Street's wave ☐ WALL STREET bears managed to start a respectful Mexican wave round the global market stadium yesterday. New Zealand's index fell 1.3 per cent. ahead of profits and interest rates were destined to rise, at

Jakarta and Bangkok markets shared falls of 1.5 per cent. France and Belgium nearly doubled that, though Tokyo and Shanghai merely bowed from a seated position. Vienna and Copenhagen reckoned a drop of 2.6 per cent appropriate and in Warsaw seven stocks were down, six up and seven unchanged, leaving the average 2.8 per cent lower. is still 5 per cent ahead.

The global echo paid tribute to the power of American investment funds. What they can put in, they can take out. Even London fund managers know that any serious break in share prices across the Atlantic is likely to cause their American equivalents to pull back from what their clients perceive to be more risky non-American markets.

Turning points that are waiting to happen can easily be set off by a few traders exploiting thin holiday markets. Given the inter-day volatility of Wall Street in recent months, however, few yet presume that the Easter wave finally done what everyone exwill turn into a summer trend. At the turn of the year, market

ack

analysts on both sides of the Atlantic reckoned 1997 should be another in May, perhaps, and the first "down year" for shares one more in the autumn. This is since 1994. Equities had risen neither more nor less likely than

least in Britain and America. By stand trends. mid-February, however, the

Dow Jones average had gained a further 9 per cent. A month later, just before the election was declared, London's FTSE-100 was 8 per cent up in ten weeks. It

Since interest rate rises were supposedly factored into the markets' views, the favourite trigger for a correction was a slowdown in profit growth re-ported by American companies. After all, the Federal Reserve would have raised rates long ago had it not anticipated the economy slowing of its own accord rising dollar (or pound) made this more likely.

That analysis may be too sophisticated. When the Fed's Alan Greenspan raised US rates by a quarter point, markets were initially relieved that he had pected. But his caution has given ammunition to bears. If there is one rate rise, there must be more:

it was ten days ago, but remains the easy bet. People can under-

There is even less new information in the London market, where ratings are still comfortably lower than New York. In London, however, election uncertainty has strangely failed to stay the hands of buyers. It will receive more attention now. Utility stocks are already weak. Nerves will surely now jangle over rises in corporation tax or cuts in pension funds' investment tax privileges.

Once you start worrying, there is plenty to worry about - but not, as yet, a crash.

Pay now,

moan later

☐ THERE was a time when few in the City would dream of sounding-off about pay and bo-nuses. One's word was one's bond, and one's salary was a matter for quiet reflection on the

4.58 pm to Colchester. The new breed of investment banker is more outspoken on matters of remuneration: though

PENNINGTON



naturally only other people's. It started last May, when Rudi Mueller, non-executive chairman of UBS, said that unpalatable pay packets threatened lasting indigestion. The system had "gone crazy". Firms were paying too much and the slightest dominator travild accurate. est downturn would cause ter-

Regulators were swift to join the chorus. Sir Andrew Large, outgoing chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, called for a balance between rewarding employees, and inciting them to take dangerous risks. Howard Davies, Deputy-Governor of the Bank of England, said bonuses had become a "oneway bet" for traders, and should

THE ENGLISH ARE FAMOUS

FOR THEIR GARDENS.

Re-enter the bankers. Sir John bonuses to performance, but Craven, outgoing chairman of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, says the City has degenerated into a friendless place, where mercenary instinct rules supreme. My word is my bond, but has a price.

Peter Middleton, boss of Salomon Brothers in Europe, accuses his competitors of paying more than they should for pretty mediocre people". This from a man who has been brandishing the chequebook in an attempt to bolster the US group's local

There is undoubtedly an element of hypocrisy in all this, but that is besides the point. The very fact that Middleton and his peers are willing to stand up and trumpet their views, suggests in the very fact the City has swang just how far the City has swung since Big Bang. Ten years ago, the pay cheques were flying just as fast, but with little of the fuss seen today. It took Black Monday and the onset of recession to

bring the market down to earth.
Which leaves us where?
Harder times will return, but something more may be needed. Firms such as Salomon reflect longer-term performance. are taking the lead in linking start on the treaty date. Preparakicks in. If it happens at all.

share the blame in reaching deep in their pockets for the best

Fear of poisoning by euro-banana

☐ RISKS posed by "greedy and disloyal staff" now loom large among potential banana skins facing banks, according to the latest poll of bankers and their customers, regulators and analysts by the Centre for the Study of Financial Innovation. When managers loathe people they pay vast sums to operate busines they distrust, you can be sure the profits are vast. Weak-minded, complacent management again figures top of this annual stormwarning exercise, which comes too late for Nippon Credit Bank.

Leaping straight into the anxiety charts at number two comes a more surprising newcomer: Europe's monetary union. Only banks seem to be preparing for the euro. This could be the problem, especially for continental banks that assume it will

tion is costing a packet, which may be irrecoverable if EMU heightens competition. Regional French and Italian banks may have little to offer wholesale markets if their own currency disappears and could lose valuable foreign exchange revenue.

Deals based on currencies converging could cause mayhem if EMU is delayed or cancelled, or if, for instance, the peseta or the lira is left out. What happens if EMU falters during the 1999-2002 transition, when banks have to assume founder currencies are interchangeable? If it goes ahead, there seems no way to cope with a market crisis if key

states get into trouble. In the UK, disaster is more likely, not just for banks, if a Blair government decides late to abolish sterling in 2002 and plump for the euro-banana.

Flight delay

☐ AS EUROPE nominally opens its skies, the door remains closed on another long-impending deal. This week, British Airways and American Airlines were scheduled to go live with their super-alliance, but a deal is as far off as ever. Washington and London are unlikely to reach any decisions until June, and little will happen before October 30 when BA's winter season

Seeden Potal Extrang Group

Amstrad in value pledge to investors

group, plans to "return value" to shareholders in the wake of yesterday's sale of Dancall, its Danish mobile-phone subsidiary, to Robert Bosch of Germany for £92 million.

Alan Sugar, Amstrad's chairman and controlling shareholder, would not pro-vide details, but analysts and bankers said that a special dividend, a share buyback or a corporate reorganisation that might include the demerger of the group's remaining opera-tions were possibilities. The

shares rose 21½ p to 221½ p.
Amstrad said that it sold Dancall because it ha the company as far as it could and that an international powerhouse such as Bosch, with its technical expertise and global distribution capabilities, was realistically far better qualified to take Dancall

forward. Amstrad paid £6.3 million for Dancall in 1993 and invested a further £10 million to turn round the struggling company. The sale price repre-

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AMSTRAD, the electronics sents a 600 per cent return on investment in less than four

> range from vehicle components to telecoms infrastructure, said that it was attracted to Dancall because it was the first mobile-phone company to launch a handset with full international roaming capability, allowing it to work in

Europe and North America.
The company and its 600 employees in Denmark will be integrated into Bosch Telecom, the group's communications business. A spokesman said that Bosch's goal was to expand

Dancall to the point where it could compete with Motorola. Nokia and Ericsson, the mobile-phone leaders. The Dancall sale almost

doubles Amstrad's cash level to £200 million. Mr Sugar said that the company would reveal its plans to return value to shareholders in several

Tempus, page 28

NO WONDER THE GERMANS ASK US TO LOOK AFTER THEIR PLANTS.



management, that isn't small potatoes.

BETTER INSURANCE FOR THE WORLDLY WISE

Liberty to sell stake in Muji

By Sarah Cunningham

LIBERTY, the stores and fabrics group, is selling its 49 per cent stake in Muji, the Japanese store chain, to Ryohin Keikaku, its joint venture partner, for £1.25 million.

Liberty will use the cash to help to pay for the redesign and refurbishment of the interior of its Regent Street store.

Denis Cassidy, chairman, said: "We have decided to dispose of our interest because our stated strategic priority is

to focus on the development of the Regent Street flagship store, the building of the Liberty brand and its expansion in domestic and international markets." Leases on three of the four ex-

isting Muji shops in London will be transferred. The Great Marlborough Street shop will revert to Liberty in a year's time. Ryohin Keikaku is looking for a new West End site and plans to enlarge its existing stores and expand the chain. It wants to open about three stores a year in the UK and

continental Europe.

Holland & **Barrett** up for sale

By Sarah Cunningham

GEHE, the German pharmaceutical wholesale and retail company, intends to sell the Holland & Barrett health food shop chain and two other businesses belonging to Lloyds Chemists, which it acquired earlier this year for £684 million.

The other two businesses are National Veterinary Suppiies and Martindales, a specialist pharmaceutical supplier. Altogether, the three are expected to fetch up to £250 million. Sales memorandums were sent out to potential bidders a fortnight ago. AAH, Gehe's British whole

sale arm, which is being merged with Lloyds, said: The sale of these three will allow AAH to concentrate on its core activities."

Holland & Barrett has 400 branches and is Britain's largest health food retail chain. Interested buyers are believed to include General Nutrition Centre of the US and Allen Lloyd, the founding chairman of Lloyds Chemists.

Tadpole Technology suspends shares

TADPOLE TECHNOLOGY, the one-time wonder of the stock market that has seen its shares plunge from 440p to 20p over the past two years, yesterday suspended its listing on the Stock Exchange (Chris Ayres

The company, which makes laptop computers, is expected to publish its annual report

and accounts today. Bernard Hulme, who became chief executive of Tadpole when its founder George Grey resigned in July last

year, is believed to be looking for extra funding for the company.

Robert Booth, Tadpole's finance director, yesterday said the suspension was not related to a takeover or merger. Last year, Tadpole incurred

a pre-tax loss of £4,39 million. reduced from a loss of £9.9 million for the previous year. Sales were £23.95 million. down from £24.17 million, and there was a basic loss per share of 16.6p, compared with 38.7p for the previous year.

some of its largest ventures.

So while they make sure your car cuns smoothly.



Share slide stemmed but further falls are forecast

ment bonds took a pasting on the London stock market in the wake of heavy losses on Wall Street. The Dow Jones industrial average fell almost 300 points over the Easter period as worries about further rises in US interest rates unnerved investors.

Open short positions and the absence of any genuine selling pressure enabled the equity market in London to the losses, which were halved by the close. The FT-SE 100 index, down 112.4 at 4,200.5 first thing, closed 64.8 off at 4,248.1. Shares changing hands numbered a mere 654 million.

But traders remain cautious about the medium-term outlook for the London market. They say its closure on Friday insulated it from the full force of the shake-out on Wall Street, so that when trading resumed yesterday everyone was fully prepared.

Martin Lupton, head of market-making at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, said: "I still expect the market to carry on down towards the 4,100 level. It will be lower in a month's time than it is now."

Richard Jeffrey, economist at Charterhouse, the merchant bank, takes a similar

The US financial markets have begun to perceive that the tightening in US monetary policy might be greater than initially thought. He says further rises in interest rates are inevitable.

Leading shares were the worst hit. BOC Group dropped 1412p to 94112p, Sheil fell 26p to £10.5912p. Unilever was down 431zp at £15.7112. SmithKline Beecham lost 3212p to 87012p, and HSBC dropped 4412p to £14.4912.

Amstrad stood out with a jump of 2112p to 22112p after announcing the sale of its lossmaking Dancall mobile telephone subsidiary to Bosch Telecom of Germany for £92

Alan Sugar said Amstrad was now looking at the most efficient way of returning some of that cash to shareholders. Amstrad bought Dancall from the receivers for E7 million in 1993. Last year merger talks between Psion and Amstrad collapsed. Psion had been hoping to buy Dancall. Its failure left the shares 1212p down at 411p. Royal Bank of Scotland fell

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Bain, left, and David Roberts of Bourne End. off 20

whispers claim Hammerson Hoare Govett, the broker, may now be considering a

urged clients to switch into Bank of Scotland, 212p easier hostile bid for MEPC. at 3180.

Elsewhere in the property There were few investors sector, Bourne End Properwilling to celebrate the news ties slipped 2p to 46p after that Vodafone has seen reporting a sharp drop in worldwide subscribers for its profits and net assets. David mobile phone network top Roberts has been appointed four million for the first time. chief executive, replacing Leo The price fell back 3p to Noe. He joined the board in 27512p. By the end of March, 1995. Duncan Bain remains as

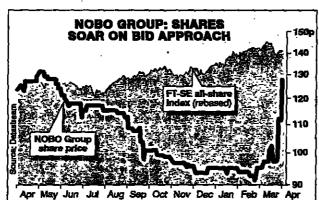
In its latest survey of the transport sector Charterhouse Tilney, the broker, says its "underweight" stance may force clients to miss some gems. Top of its shopping list is British Airways, down 12¹2p at 643p, along with P&O, down 7²2p at 611p, National Express, 13¹2p off at 552p, and Ocean Group, 2p lighter at 523p.

the total number of subscribers in Britain had grown 415,000 to 2.87 million. A share buyback or special dividend were both mentioned as possible options.

MEPC, up 712p at 485p, has confirmed weekend reports that it has been in merger talks with rival Hammerson, lp lighter at 43112p, but said that the talks were called off several weeks ago. Market

finance director. First-time dealings in Newcastle United are expected to get off to a healthy start after the issue was more than seven times oversubscribed at

Brokers are looking for a premium of around 10p to 15p. Chariton Athletic, the struggling south London Nationwide Division One side and recent newcomer to the mar-



ending 2p cheaper at 621 ap. The shares were floated last month at 80p.

supplier, advanced 17p to 12812p after announcing it was in talks that might lead to a bid for the company. Nobo Group was forced to make this known because of the recent demand for the shares, which has seen the price rise from a low of 9112p since last month.

Shares of Tadpole Technology, former high-flyer, were suspended at 2312p at the company's request pending publication of its annual

The notebook computer company reported worse than expected losses of £4.39 million in November.

Corporation were also suspended, at 4812p - just 1p off the low for the year - at the company's request ahead of

establish a premium in firsttime trading despite the sharp losses recorded elsewhere in the equity market. Placed at 100p by Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, it ended at 10312p, a premium of 312p on the day.

The speculators continued to drive Somic sharply higher, with the price surging 72p to 1581 zp. At these levels, the group is capitalised at £3.13

HIT Entertainment rose lOp to 300p after seeing profits top El million for the first time. GILT-EDGED: The London bond market suffered losses much in line with other overseas bond markets as investors began reacting to the setback for shares and bonds over the Easter period in New York. Prices opened sharply lower and spent much of the day bumping along the bot-tom before closing just above the day's low. The June series of the long gilt finished £5s lower at £1081132 in moderate trading that saw 53,000 con-

Treasury 8 per cent 2015 shed £2332 to finish at £1012132, while among shorter-dated issues Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was off E'4 at

German Govt Bond (Bund

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Bank of England official close (4pm)

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M & G High Capital

M & G High Pckg

M&G High Unit.

Prestbury Leisure Q Group

PSD Group

FW Thorpe

DFS Fumiture

Closing Prices Page 33

M&G High Income 685

Pathfinder Properties 2312

River & Merc 1st UK 9912

E:ECU

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Birmingham City the annual report.

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tracts completed. Somic EMI FALLS:

□ NEW YORK: An attempt at a rally after the losses over two days petered out towards midday, when the Dow Jones industrial average was 9.82 points higher at 6,593.30.

MAJOR INDICES **TEMPUS** New York (midday):

A bid too far

sale doubles the level of cash

to about £200 million, com-

pared with its market

capitalisation of £260 mil-

lion, valuing the rest of the

group -- Viglen, the comput-

ONCE upon a time, ambitious chief executives dragged their reluctant shareholders into foolhardy bids. Today, a group of angry shareholders seem to be pushing Hammerson into a bid for MEPC. For years, fund managers have been whispering that something must be done about MEPC's underperformance, nil growth in dividend, lack of focus and uninspiring management. The barely hidden agenda was that MEPC needed to be taken over, but no one obliged not even when its share price was at a substantial discount to net assets.

It is difficult to understand why Hammerson needs MEPC. Years ago, it, too, was a bloated jumble of assets with little means to pay the dividend, but new management has given Hammerson some focus. achieved mixed results and has embarked on a massive E800 million development programme. There is one good reason and several bad reasons for Hammerson to take over the £2 billion MEPC juggernaut.

Size is a poor reason to do anything; a

bigger Hammerson might borrow more cheaply, but the best performing UK property companies are half its size and the FISE-100 is no guarantee of respectability. Remember-British Gas. The second bad reason is funding. Hammerson does not need MEPC to support its developments. Institutions will buy into good projects, and Hammerson, with its share price at a 9 per cent premium to its net worth could use its paper to advantage. The third poor excuse is diversification. Again, the best performers in the sector are specialists, not the conglomerate property vehicles of the past, scattering money across the globe. Having rid itself of so many distractions, it is difficult to explain why Hammerson is keen to turn itself into the Sumo wrestler of the property world.

The only sound reason to bid is to support a change at the helm of MEPC. But there is no particular reason for Hammerson to do the honours and pay the price. If institutions want change at MEPC, they can appoint a new board tommorrow.

about £10 million a year and

is probably worth more than

E60 million. An order for

digital set-top boxes from

BSkvB, the satellite broad-

caster, would give the busi-

Amstrad

AMSTRAD has always had a knack for spotting opportunities. One of them was mobile communications: It picked up Dancall for a pittance in 1993 and turned it înto a technological leader. But Dancall could never hope to compete in the long run with the likes of Ericsson. Nokia and Motorola. So Bosch, the German industrial group, is paying £92 million for Dancall and will provide the necessary marketing and distribution muscle.

Amstrad's timing good. It has unloaded Dancall while interest in mobile communications is still high and before heavy take Dancall forward. Basic arithmetic suggests

that the company remains undervalued. The Dancall

ness a nice boost. er maker, Betacom, the tele-The shares probably stand phone equipment and consuat a discount to their worth. mer products arm, and meanwhile, the chances of a Dataflex, the small modem company — at only £60 million. Viglen alone makes cash return to shareholders CASH RETURN IMMINENT

190 180 170

LucasVarity

SHARE buybacks are a fashionable tool to boost flagging share ratings but few managements on this side of the Atlantic have contemplated using them as a permanent alternative to dividends.

That could be about to change as LucasVarity has been canvassing its shareholders on that very subject. A rolling programme of share buybacks would replace the annual payout and several institutions are said to be in favour.

They should think again and those who oppose such a managements believe they cannot add value through investing, there is nothing wrong with returning capital to shareholders. However there is a lot wrong with

regular dividend payments and there is everything wrong with market share buybacks that bypass the private shareholder. Share buybacks that mere-

ly involve a periodic market purchase of stock are iniquitous to private shareholders who cannot participate. But LucasVarity's move raises more difficult questions about how best to reward shareholders. LucasVarity is wedded to

the theory of economic value added which measures the performance of an investment on whether the rate of return on investment exceeds problems with this measure, not least the question of how to assess the capital emplayed of a business which can fall with write-offs just as it increases with investment.

ApriMar3i mujokoky dowa

shares should improve return on investment but this is hardly a sign of superior performance. LucasVarity is in a mature

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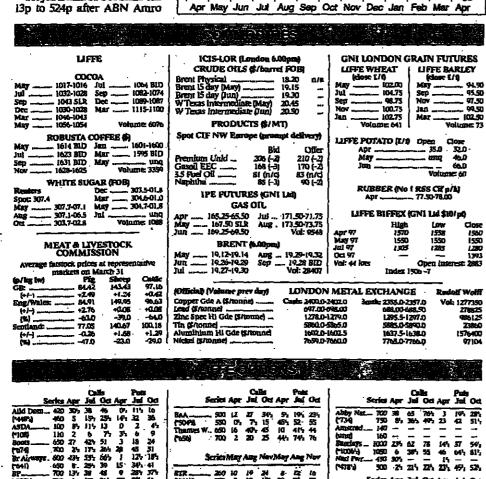
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industry, automotive components, and its share price performance reflects the market's perception that growth will be modest. In the past, the market would demand a higher yield from such a share and there is no reason why Lucas Varity should not accelerate dividend growth if it genuinely believes it cannot achieve returns above its cost

of capital. Unfortunately, most managements prefer to see earninvestors like them.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

WALL STREET



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How a forger came unstuck

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FULL marks to the diligent investigator from the SFO who uncovered one of the crucial pieces of evidence that helped to convict Robert Feld, former chief executive of Resort Hotels.

Faxes played a key part in Feld's deception, but it was almost impossible to tell exactly how the cos-metic forgeries had been carried out, without recourse to the original documents. Eventually, a bank statement of liabilities was unearthed, with strips of paper glued on to cover the level of Feld's indebtedness.

When jurors were shown the offending document, however, the heat of the overlight projector melted away the glue and the forgery literally came apart in front of the court. Underneath a scrap of paper marking debts nil", was a more realistic figure of £8 million.

Duty calls

SO, THAT'S how Alan Sugar spent his 50th birthday. On board his luxury yacht, anchored in Spanish waters, Amstrad's soccer-loving chairman was surround-

ed by friends and family. In between opening presents and blowing out candles on March 24, the combative Sugar spent much of the day with his Dancall mobile phone stuck to his ear. His halfcentury celebrations happened to coincide with the £92 million deal with Bosch Telecom.



Sugar interrupted his birthday for a deal

Good citizens

HIT Entertainment has been under siege from fertile women. In response to an advertisement that appeared in this week's Bedfordshire Times & Citizen — placed by an infertile couple looking to have children - the media company's receptionist has been kept unusually busy.

Peter Orton, Hit's managing director, was the first to feel the full force of the blunder when he came in to work on Easter Monday, in anticipation of yesterday's results. Orton's answer machine was alive with calls from a chorus of benevolent women, keen to offer their personal services. Hit's telephone number had been mistakenly printed in place of that of the London Fertility

Swish job

IAN MARTIN, chairman of Unigate Granada, has been appointed non-executive chairman of Newmond. Formed in January as a result of a £360 million management buyout from Williams Holdings, and backed by Candover Investments and Electra, Newmond is one of the UK's leading building

products groups. With brands such as Swish. Rawplug. Heatrac, Aqualisa, and Valor, we can expect a stock market flotation within the next four years. As a non-executive director of Granada and House of Fraser, Martin will be well rewarded for his latest commitment; a starting salary of £75,000 a year for one day's work a week.

MORAG PRESTON

America shortchanged by the Telephone Bill

Telecoms law has proved a nightmare.

Maddox says

Bronwen

year and a month after President Clinton signed the longderegulate telecommunications, mergers and takeovers have swept the industry, but promised competition and the variety of services have barely improved - and, most politically explosive, phone charges are rising, not falling. In praising the Bill, its spon-

sors ran out of superlatives. Thomas Bliley, chairman of the House Commerce Committee, called it "the first major overhaul of telecommunications law since Marconi was alive". Edward Markey, a Democratic congressman, called it the "best overall blueprint that any country in the world has ever come up with". Even the President proclaimed that "today, with the stroke of a pen, our laws will catch up with the future. Instead, the Telecommuni-

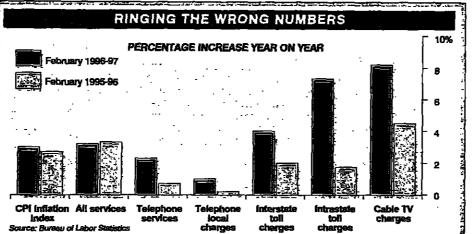
cations Act is a fair candidate for the messiest legislation Congress has passed for years. The 600-page Act ducked the central question of who would pay for the changes, handing it over to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), state regulators and the courts: it may well take them a decade to arrive at answers. Pessimists wonder whether the Act can ever be implemented: even optimists ask what went wrong.

The purpose of the Bill was entirely sensible. It was intended to dismantle the legal barriers to competition that have kept different kinds of telecoms and media companies out of each other's markets. It allowed local and long-distance phone companies to enter each other's markets, cable companies to supply phone calls, and phone companies to supply pictures. To a lesser extent, it also relaxed the rules on ownership of radio and television. The new laws were supposed to set the stage for a free-for-all scramble that would bring down the cost of phone calls and cable television.

The most dramatic effect of the law is the wave of mergers that has swept the industry, amounting to more than \$120 billion, headed by Nynex's \$22 billion purchase of Bell Atlantic. and British Telecom's \$21 billion takeover of MCI. But while consolidation has been immediate, competition has been slow to enter new markets. Local phone companies remain monopolies in residential markets. and face scarcely any competition for business customers. Meanwhile, phone and cable rates have risen well above the rate of inflation (see table).

in part, cable and phone companies have been deterred from entering each other's markets by the high costs. The two biggest cable companies. Time Warner and Tele-Communications, have indicated that they are not rushing to





provide phone services over their networks. Nor have phone companies yet made serious steps to get into video. But the greatest obstacle to

competition is the need for the FCC and the separate state regulatory commissions to unpick the layers of cross-subsi-dies between different telecoms markets that have been the basis of US regulation for decades. The guiding principle of US telecoms regulation has been that local calls should be heavily subsidised by longdistance calls. The subsidy has been worth tens of billions of dollars a year.

Three closely related areas are proving difficult. The first is who should pay for provid-

ing "universal access" - affordable local calls across the whole country. In the past, the costs were covered by subsidies; under the new law, they must be made explicit, and paid for out of a new fund. The FCC is due to give its views on the size of the fund - and the contributors - by May 8. The Clinton Administration

has made the problem worse by demanding that schools and libraries be equipped free of charge with high-speed cable suitable for browsing the Internet. But the President has declined to say who should bear the cost.

The second contentious point is the level of access charges the fees that long-distance

challenged in court by state regulatory commissions and telephone companies. The task facing the regulators is an economist's nightmare: it re-SHARE PRICE PERFORMANCE 1996 quires them to work out thousands of different costs, 25 % 20 and then to share the burden out across a huge industry. To Robert Crandall of the Brookings Institution, Washington think-tank, the task is "a monster", requiring regulators "to disaggregate an entire industry and reset

The task is also politically hazardous. Congress is now dimly recognising what the industry saw from the start: if all the subsidies are unpicked, the cost of local calls will rise sharply. In the US, where neighbourhood calls are al-

phone carriers pay to local

phone companies to deliver

the calls over the last stretch of

line. In the past, these have

been deliberately set higher

than the costs of providing the

connection. The revenues -

worth about \$20 billion a year

to local companies - are one

of the main subsidies current-

ly keeping the cost of local calls

low. The FCC will give its

The third dispute is over the

charges" which phone com-

panies pay each other to

complete their calls. The FCC

has given its view, but is being

"interconnection

views in early May.

most always free, the change would be politically explosive. But attempts to put the law into practice are proving a lawyer's dream. Each time the FCC gives a ruling, it is effectively proposing to redistribute billions of dollars between a handful of companies; such is the value at stake, it is bound to be challenged in the courts. According to Neil Hickey of the Columbia Jour-

nalism Review, the law could

be dubbed the "Full Employ-

ment Act for Telecommunica-

tions Lawyers". In the midst of this paralysis, it is striking that the greatest activity has come in the newest segments of the industry, which are hardly affected by the new law. Wireless telephone companies are springing up across the country, bringing cellular tele-phone rates sharply down. In television, direct broadcast satellite services, which had never achieved much popularity in the US, have rapidly sold dishes to 4.6 million house-holds. That unexpected competition is one reason why the telecoms industry sharply underperformed the stock

market last year (see chart). But frustration with the central part of the Act is still running so high that many have been tempted to recommend a grand quick-fix, no matter how politically contentious. Thomas Hazlett, an economist, suggests letting wireless phone companies use sections of the airwaves reserved for television. Mr Crandall favours the abolition of all regulation after a specified number of years. "With regulated competition," he says, the FCC "ends up cutting political deals".

But telecoms remains a highly political industry, and deals that depart from the economic ideal are the likely outcome. If regulators conclude that local phone rates should rise, they may still try to fudge the manner in which it is done, eg, by loading charges onto special" services.

The lesson of the Telecommunications Act is clear: Congress tried to do far too much. and ended up doing far too little. Hours of congressional time were devoted to the clause stipulating that a "V-chip" must be built into television sets to allow parents to screen their children from sex and violence. Yet while the Act blithely told regulators to strip away billions of dollars in subsidies, it paid little attention to how this would be accomplished.

The irony is that, if members of Congress had realised the full implications - that local phone bills may rise they would probably not have passed the law. But if the US is to achieve the competitive market the Act envisaged, such a step is necessary.



HARRIS

Misreading the Greenspan correction

market shakeout in fear of rising interest rates? Considering that the markets hold Alan Greenspan, the Fed Chairman, in such reverence, it is surprising that some analysts still don't seem to listen to what he says. A few weeks ago the Chairman caused some shock when he spoke of the "irrational exuberance" of the markets; but that failed to deflate what threatened to become a bubble. So now he has asserted himself with another 25basis-point rise in interest rates, which did the trick in 1994. This time there has been a correction; but so far it is only a mild one, leaving all Street prices still well above their level at the start

of the year. So the interesting ques-tions have not much to do with the US economy and its supposed "need" of higher rates. In fact there is still almost no sign of inflationary pressures, and a growth rate which has reached 3.8 per cent annually in a single quarter is hardly a major shock, and is expected to ease before long. The Fed Governors, indeed, still talk of an economy where inflationary and recessionary forces are near to balance. There is little reason in the economy for the Fed to act again in haster it can wait and see, as was until recent-

ly its habit. However, a stock market boom that passes rational levels and heads into speculative country, as it did in 1987 (let alone 1929), is a real threat. It can generate wealth illusions that encourage over-borrowing, and the correction, when it comes, can easily turn into a panic.

Remember, too, that Greenspan's first experience as Chairman was managing a really sharp correction: Wall Street prices fell 30 per cent, but the Fed managed to prevent any spillover into the economy. That success was the basis of his reputation, and is a good clue to his present intentions. He would probably regard a 10 per cent correction as thoroughly healthy, and remain fairly unworried if it ran towards 20 per cent. It would be surprising if he was remotely satisfied

with the present correction of less than 3 per cent. Will it go on down? That depends not on the market professionals, but on the

ordinary American saver. for it is ordinary small savings that have fuelled the bull market.

Small savers do not follow the market closely, and usually show strong nerves. They switched into the funds partly because of panic after the savings and loan scandal, which wiped out so many savings institutions: partly, ironically enough. because of the low rates introduced by Greenspan. primarily to bail out the banks. So it has been a Greenspan bull market, and small savers have prospered. It may now need a much bigger fall to catch their attention; certainly, it will need quite a long period of zero capital gains. Then and only then are they likely to notice that the income return on ordinary savings accounts and on govern-ment and municipal bonds is now quite attractive again.

t was, after all, the continued flow of savings into the mutual funds that drove the US market up again after the first Greenspan warning: so it could happen again. Indeed, the signs so far, both in New York and in London. are that it will. A bull market psychology is not so easily disturbed, as can be seen at present in the London house

Remember, too, that there are still strong forces tending to drive asset prices up. notably the growing realisation that the pension promises made by the State are not to be trusted. People are trying to secure their income in old age through their private efforts, which are realistic and admirable. The problem for monetary policy is to manage this switch while avoiding dangerous speculative excesses.

So, putting the horse and the cart in the right order, we now face a real danger that interest rates may have to rise further than the US economy, let alone the British economy, require simply beause there has not been a real market correction. Just a guiet little rehearsal.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Source: Brookings Institutio

L&G's proposal to solve pensions mis-selling saga may be better for customers

From Mr Malcolm Oliver Sir, Pennington (March 2l) is probably right to be dubious about Legal & General's motives in proposing an alternative to the long drawn-out pensions review process. An industry that for so long denied the existence of any problem, or opined that it was only the other companies that were mis-selling, must expect comparisons with Greeks bearing gifts, especially when, as Pennington observes, the alternative has

the insurers. But that analysis ignores a vital perspective - that of the customer. Given the grievous concern that so many have been caused, is it not right to

some significant advantages for

do what is in their best interests? Although both the industry and the regulators may long forbear to admit it. the present review process

fails this test. There are two problems with the review: it is taking too long; and the eventual outcome will merely be to put the customer back in the position that hypothetically they would have been in had they been given what was then best advice at the point of sale. That would be fine if person-

al pensions transfers were universally bad. They are not: it is only the circumstances of low inflation and low anticipated investment returns in recent years, coupled with

relatively high management charges, which mean that the projectable returns from the personal pensions were generally worse than the benefits from occupational schemes. But many of the pensions

currently under review will not become payable for 20 or 30 years. Over that period, it is quite conceivable that inflation and investment returns will rise, or even that pensions management charges may be reduced. Some of those customers currently being reinstated in their former schemes might find themselves worse off. That surely cannot be

The Legal & General scheme offers those potentially

More to the point, I sub-

control?

disadvantaged in effect a oneway bet: the better of either the occupational scheme that they transferred from, or the personal pension plan. It also offers a better deal for its other policyholders, because the costs of the review process (which those policyholders would ultimately pick up, or at best split with any shareholders) would be lower.

The idea is fraught with practical difficulties, but it deserves a more empathetic response. Here at last is a pension company trying to put the customer's real needs first. Yours faithfully MALCOLM OLIVER. 26 Green Lane. Purley, Surrey.

Uphill struggle for British innovators Corporate strategy and poor directors

and patented a concrete that is From Mr David Barker Sir, Your article (British innovation is being blunted by a financial vacuum', March 6) is sadly true and has been for many years. Barnes Wallis being a prime example.

Grants are available, but almost impossible for smaller companies to obtain, and venture capitalists only think in millions and don't like inventors, so it is no wonder many wonderful ideas are not taken up here, although they are "invented" eventually.

My company has invented

electro conductive and has many commercial uses. We have invested a substantial amount personally in research and development and patent fees and have just put the product to the world on the internet in the hope that major companies will see the incredible possibilities. Will they be British? Sadly. I doubt it! Yours faithfully.

DAVID BARKER, Coopers Rise, 39a London Road. Horndean, Hampshire.

compensation, no reduction in From Mr Brian Whittingham Sir, In an ideal world shareeither salary or bonuses is imposed on those who had the holders might well be able to unwisdom to appoint that dismiss incompetent company directors (Investors director in the first place.

After all, a prime function of urged to sack poor board senior directors is the selection performers, March 19), but how does the layman, or and appointment of senior managers and other directors. indeed investment fund man-Attention to corporate strategy ager, distinguish between the effects of managerial ineptiis of little effect with the wrong tude and economic factors people in charge. over which the board has no Yours faithfully, BRIAN WHITTINGHAM,

Green Gables, mit, is the fact that when an Wicken Road, Clavering. unsatisfactory director has to be sacked with six-figure

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Lufthansa-Bombardier link for new jet service

BOMBARDIER, the Canadian aerospace-tosnowmobiles group, has teamed up with Lufthansa CityLine to create a new corporate jet charter company. European Business Jet Services, based at Berlin-Schoenefeld airport, will begin operations in the autumn.

Keith Bonson, UK sales manager for Emirates, the Middle Eastern carrier, has been appointed co-managing director of the new venture, the first of its kind in Europe between an airline and an aircraft manufacturer. Mr Bonson will also be responsible for sales and

By HARVEY ELLIOTT AJR CORRESPONDENT

HOPES of cheaper European

air fares are unlikely to be

realised quickly in spite of yesterday's final deregulation

of air travel within the Euro-

internal domestic services, free

from bureaucratic interference.

But even the most optimistic

and competitive British carri-

ers believe it will be years, if at

all, before new low-cost airlines

are competing alongside the

national giants and forcing

A shortage of airport space plus high landing fees and other costs will make it impos-

sible for newcomers to break into the market at Europe's

key hub airports, it is believed.

man of British Midland, said:

"My view is that there will in-

evitably be a feeling of anti-

climax among many outside

the industry who may be ex-

forefront of the ten-year battle

to get greater liberalisation of air travel within Europe, but

he now fears that the contin-

uing state aid to airlines and

airports will effectively snuff

out competition. He added:

"There will be attempts to

neutralise the impact of the

new order. European travel-

lers will be watching to ensure

that the reality and the spirit of

There are now 156 sched-

uled airlines within Europe

carrying more than 700 mil-

lion passengers a year. Air

change is enforced."

His airline has been at the

pecting cataclysmic change."

Sir Michael Bishop, chair-

Any airline can now operate any route it wishes, including

pean Union.

down prices.

marketing. He will be based in Germany. The service is aimed at businessmen with dealings in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Learjets and Challengers supplied by Bombardier will perform round trips, thus avoiding questionable maintenance or tainted fuel supplies. The service will be linked to Lufthansa's Amadeus centralised computer

Bombardier has supplied Lufthansa with Canadair Regional Jets, and was impressed by the airline's extensive East European network. Michael Graff, president of Bombardier Business Aircraft, said reaction from potential

EU completes air travel

deregulation programme

which are not being utilised to their full potential."

Bombardier recently announced net income, before exceptionals, of C\$406 million (£180 million) for the year to January 31, on revenues of C\$8 billion. A write-down on Bombardier's investment in Eurotunnel left net income for the year at C\$158 million.

Flight testing is continuing on the Bombardier Global Express, a new long-range corporate jet that features components built by Short Brothers in Belfast, BMW, Rolls-Royce and

customers had been good. He said: "We will use customer aircraft currently in operation but the aircraft, which will cover 6,700 nautical miles at a cruising speed of Mach 0.80. It is competing for orders with the Guifstream GV. which has similar specifications, and is about 12 months ahead in terms of testing and production.

Bombardier has expanded aggressively in the past decade to become the world's fourth largest civil aircraft manufacturer. The aerospace division encompasses four famous aviation names - Canadair and de Havilland in Canada, Learjet in America, and Short Broth-

Properties sees 35%

Meanwhile, Don Hughes,

The new management is

The company yesterday an-nounced its aquisition of the

It has also recently bought the prestigious Waverley Shopping Centre in Edin-

The company said yester-day that a dividend of 0.65p

Bourne End decline

the retail and office property company, yesterday reported a 35.7 per cent fall in pre-tax profits, from £1.04 million to £666,000, for the year ended December 31.

Net asset value also fell, from 81.2p to 69.2p, because of a 5 per cent drop in the value of the company's investment portfolio.

expected to continue the company's move away from the secondary retail market to concentrate on large shopping

250,000 sq ft Clock Towers shopping centre in Rugby for £16.5 million.

Bourne End, which owns 74 properties at present, now earns more than 85 per cent of its income from national companies, including Argos. Littlewoods, Mothercare, John Menzies and Iceland.

BY CHRIS AYRES

BOURNE END Properties.

The results coincide with a management shake-up that sees David Roberts replace Leo Noe as chief executive. Mr Noe will keep a seat on the board as a non-executive

the chairman, has decided to retire and the company is now looking for an external replacement.

burgh city centre.

would be paid on July 3, which means the total year dividend Pennington, page 27 | will be maintained at 1.2p.

dustry may prove the most tempting to low-cost carriers fares generally are up to twice Go-ahead for \$16.5bn 'Baby Bell' merger

tances flown within the US. The liberalisation process that

culminated in yesterday's fi-

nal unshackling of the indus-

try took more than a decade to

reach its conclusion, spread

between three fiercely negoti-

ated packages of measures.

tries with especially high fares and an inefficient airline in-

Domestic air ractes in coun-

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

APPROVAL by the California Public Utilities Commission has allowed the \$16.5 billion merger between SBC Communications and Pacific Telesis Group to go ahead. The boards of the two companies finally voted the deal

through. The merger creates America's largest provider of local telephone services, with a territory that stretches from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean and with annual revenues of \$23.5 billion.

SBC, however, agreed to the California regulators demand that it issue refunds

LEGAL NOTICES

totalling \$341 million to California consumers over a fiveyear period, beginning in 1998. to cover a portion of the shortterm and long-term benefits of

the merger. The annual revenue of \$23.5 billion ranks the new group among the top 30 publicly held American corporations on the

Edward Whitacre, SBC's chairman and chief executive officer, said: "Growth prospects for our business are outstanding. Exploding demand for Internet access and high-speed data services, strong growth in wireless

services, increased demand for hasic wireline service and tremendous opportunities in long-distance and in markets outside the United States, all point to an exciting future for the new SBC."

such as EasyJet. Stelios

Hajioannou, who started the

cut-price airline on British

domestic routes from Luton, is

now planning to open a series

But he will have to choose

small uniderused airports

rather than the main hubs to

obtain the right slots. He said:

of services within Greece.

The merger of the two "Baby Bell" companies, however, has met with stiff criticism from consumer groups and rival telephone companies, which argue that the combination of the two will slow the opening up of local exchange markets to competition.

Telephone bill, page 29

Pressac plans £8m takeover in America

mine would be well advised to

steer clear of them anyway

and to concentrate instead on

secondary airports as we have

"Greece is the obvious can-

didate for competition to be

mirroduced because alone of

countries within the Com-

munity it has just one large

mefficient carrier on its do-mestic service. But there are

Sir Michael Bishop, British Midland chairman, fears continuing state aid will effectively snuff out competition

PRESSAC, the electrical and electronic component specialist, raised pre-tax profits 28 per cent to £2.9 million in the six months to January 31 on sales up 15 per cent to £36.1 million. Earnings rose 30 per cent to 4.98p, allowing the interim dividend to increase

II per cent to 1.10p. The group announced an E8.8 million cash deal to take over the American Kaumagraph Flint Corporation, which it said would expand its plastic graphics car components business in North America.

On prospects Roger Boissier, the chairman, said: "The confidence that I expressed in my year-end statement is maintained."

US woes help to push Telemetrix into the red

By CHRIS AYRES

AN OVERAMBITIOUS acquisition and a lack of control over US operations are to blame for Telemetrix's plunge into the red in 1996, according to senior management.

gating as possible places for

Meanwhile, British Air-

ways is determined to carry on

with its policy of offering

franchises to small European

carriers and Britannia, Brit-

ain's biggest charter airline,

will concentrate on the British

market which, it says, it

knows best.

expansion in the future."

The semiconductor manufacturer, which owns just over half of GTI corporation in America, yesterday reported losses of £6.9 million for the year to December 31, compared with profits of E10.4 million in 1995. Losses were 4.2p a share, against earnings of 5.3p.

Tim Curtis, Telemetrix's chief executive, said that GTI's purchase of Promptus, the US video conferencing specialist, was mainly to blame. He added: "It hasn't worked out. It was a level of commitment above us. We also don't have full management of GTI, which has caused problems." Telemetrix has signed an agreement to sell Promptus to Video Server, another American video conferencing company. Telemetrix is expected to get about £12 million from the

Mr Curtis yesterday emphasised the underlying strength of Telemetrix's UK operations, which includes Trend, the leading ISDN test equipment manufacturer. The total dividend is maintained at 1.45p a share as a reflection of the company's profitability in the UK.

After the sale of Promptus, Telematrix hopes to soon re-turn a profit on Valor, GTI's networking components division.

Mr Curtis said: "Valor is close to breaking even. The profitability is improving all the time. We now want to develop the broad-band market and move into digital broadcasting. There will be no further diversification."

R-R \$240m deal with **Continental Airlines**

ROLLS-ROYCE has struck a deal with Continental Airlines worth up to \$240 million for engines to power Boeing 757 aircraft. The contract is for engines for up to 16 extra aircraft. which would mean, if all options were exercised, that Continental would have 41 Rolls-Royce-powered 757s. Tre deal which includes an eight-year repair and overhaul agreement. strengthens Rolls-Royce's already dominent position in the 757 market. Continental Airlines has also agreed to buy \$45 million in spare engines from Rolls-Royce. Rolls-Royce said the engine for Continental's 757s — the RB2II-535 — was

chosen because of reliability and potential for saving costs. The company is currently working to resolve problems with its RB211-524, a separate family of engines that power 747-400 aircraft. It has been in talks with a number of airlines to repair the engines that have developed faults with their blades. The company is discussing replacing parts of the engines with those from its Trent family.

Nobo bid approach

NOBO, the office equipment group based in Sussex, said yesterday it had received a bid approach that "may or may not" lead to an offer being made for the company. Nobo shares rose 17p to 1272 p, which values the business at nearly £23 million. The company declined to identify the potential soon as practicable". Last year, Nobo lifted its pre-tax profits 8 per cent from £2.7m to £2.93 million, on sales of £50.2 million, £40.5 million). bidder and said a further announcement would be made "as

Reunion incurs loss

REUNION MINING registered a loss of £3.7 million in the year to end December, equal to a loss per share of 10.6p, a fall on the 6.0p loss per share in the previous year and the £1.9 million pre-tax loss. Reunion also said that a feasibility study on the Skorpion zinc deposit in Southern Namibia had nowcommenced. The result of a full study is expected by the middle of 1998, although the development of a mining operation would take about two years, putting the start of production in the latter half of the year 2000. The shares rose 12 ap to 138p.

Arcadian in hotel deal

ARCADIAN INTERNATIONAL, the hotels and property development company, announced joint-venture arrangements for the redevelopment of the Great Eastern Hotel at Liverpool Street in London. The company will take a 125-year lease of the hotel from British Land, which has a similar agreement with Railtrack. British Land will provide £30 million of funding towards Great Eastern's redevelopment costs, Arcadian said. The hotel will close for a £43 million redevelopment this month. It is due to reopen in 1999.

Vodafone users increase

VODAFONE, which is the biggest mobile telephone operator in the UK, now has more than four million worldwide subscribers. The company said its customer base grew by 979,000 in the year to March 31, while in the UK the subscriber base was more than 2.87 million, up 415,000 in the current financial year. Chris Gent, Vodafone's chief executive, said: "In the UK Vodafone remains the market leader both in turnover and in numbers of subscribers.

Tuskar's African deal

TUSKAR RESOURCES, the Dublin oil and gas exploration and production company, announced yesterday that it had signed a memorandum of understanding with Camac International (Nigeria) to acquire its net production revenue interest in the Ukpokiti field, located offshore Nigeria. Tuskar Resources said the consideration will be met through the issue of ordinary shares in the company at a price to be negotiated on completion of an independent valuation.

Premiere expands

PREMIERE, the education and business training group, raised pre-tax profits from £408,000 to £792,000 in the year to December 31. Earnings per share rose from 13p to 16.9p, out of which a maiden dividend of 4p will be paid. Dorian Marks, joint managing director, said: "The year was one of satisfying success and 1997 has started with turnover ahead of budget and further advances in profitability achieved." The company continued to expand, with branches in Leeds and Warrington.

Insurance joint venture

LAMBERT FENCHURCH, the insurance broker, has formed a German general insurance joint venture with Pantaenius, for £1.67 million plus the share capital of Lowndes Lambert Deutschland, Pantaenius is based in Hamburg and has offices in Dusseldorf, Munich and Monaco. Lambert Fenchurch will acquire 40 per cent of Pantaenius, whose yacht insurance broking company will remain wholly under Harald Baum, its chairman.

Gaskell advances

GASKELL, the floor coverings group, raised pre-tax profits from £807,000 to £1.2 million last year on sales up from £39.1 million to £43.7 million. Earnings rose from 11.4p to 16.4p, allowing the total dividend to rise from 4.5p to 4.5p after a rise in the final from 3.0p to 3.2p. The company said that despite the current political and economic uncertainties it was confident that the group had established a solid foundation from which to achieve further profitable growth in the future.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

BULLERS PLC	The Interprise Group Limited .	NOTICE TO SEND IN CLAIMS	GF SURROUNDS LIMITED (FORMERLY GLENLOMOND FIRE	RSL Shipping Limited (former Euroiman Shipping Limited)
	Engistered Number: 1696348 CTW Offset Limited - Registered	(in Members Volumery	SURROUNDS LINGTED)	The Inspirency Act and Rul
CCL REALISATIONS (POOLE)	Number: 1990553	Liquidation) On 18th March 1997 the above	(IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECRIVERSHIP)	in accordance with Enic 4.10
(Formania CRUMMLES & CO	Eagletered Number, 3139792	company was placed byto Mem-	INSOLVENCY ACT 1985	I David Julian Buchler of Buchl
	The Origination Centre Limited -	pers Volumeny Liquidation and	NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pur-	Phillips. 84 Grosvenor Stre
UNICAST (REALISATIONS)	Registered Number: 3127126 The Printing Company Limited	St. Paul's House, Park Square,	spant to Section 98 of the Lasolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of	London WIX 9DF, give noti
Crosserly LUNTS CASTINGS	Resistand Number 3002232	Leeds L51 2RJ was appointed	gredifiors of the above tigmed	appointed Liquidator by resol
(barmen's Fouris Creatives)	The Trade Publishing Company Limited Registered Number	Liquidator by the Members. The Liquidator gives notice pur-	Company will be held at The Institute of Chartered Accoun-	i tions of members. Notice is bereby given that t
NEDDATS BEALISATIONS	1811705	sugnit to Bule 4.182A of the	mats, Scotland, 183 Both Street,	creditors of the above name
LIMITED	SRAZ Distribution Services Lim- thed - Registered Number:	Insolvency Rules 1986 that the Creditors of the Company must	Glassion, G2 4HU on 28 April 1997 at 10,30mm for the por-	company, which is being colu-
CRESSORY CHAS C STADDEN	2970070	send details, in writing of any	pours mentioned in Sections 99	titulis would up, are required, or before the 29 April 1997
LIMITED)	Lingua France (UK) Limited - Registered Number, 2731578	claim against the company to B.D. Firming of Arthur Anderses,	to 101 of the spid Art. Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting	send in their full christian at surpasses, their addresses at
CASHFLEET LIMITED T/A	The Desktop Graphics Centre	St. Paul's House, Park Square, [mest lodge their proxy, together	descriptions, full particulars
WISHMANS	Limited - Registered Number:	Leeds LS1 2E) by 20th May 1997.	with a full statement of their debt to the offices of Buchler	their debts or childs and to pames and addresses of the
(All in Administrative	2473943 The Morthants Paper Company	The Liquidator also given notice)	Phillips, 84 Grosvenor Street,	Solicitors (If any), to the und
Receiveship) The Implicator Act 1985	Limbed - Registered Number:	4.182(6) that on 20th June 1997	London W13, 909 not later than	stoned David Julian Buckler
WITTICE IS REPERVEN OUT	27 1637 NOTICE IS HERRRY GIVEN pur-	he invente to make a final return to creations who have embrished	12 noon on 25 April 1997. For the purposes of voting a secured	84 Grosvemor Street, Lond WIX 9DF, the Liquideor of t
ement to Section 98 of the Insol-	grams to Section 48 of the Itisal-	claims by 20th May 1997 and	creditor is required (unless be	said company, and if so requir
vency Act 1986 that meetings of the Crediture of the above maked	vency Act 1986, that a general meeting of the masscured credi-	that there will be no further dis- tribution to creditors. The final	before the meeting a statement	by potice in writing from the se Liquidator, are, personally or
Companies will be held at Cafe	tons of the above-mimed compo-	return to creditory will be made	giving particulars of his security,	their Solicitors, to come in a
Boyal, 68 Regent Street, London	miss will be held at 8 Suker	without regard to the claim of	the date when it was given and I	prove their debts or claims
WIR SEL on 25th April 1997 at 1.00pm, 1.20pm, 1.40pm, 2.00pm	Street, Landon Wild 1DA on 23 April 1997 at 15.00 hrs for the	any person in respect of a debt	the value at which it is assessed. Notice is further given that a list	such time and place as shall specified in such notice, or
and 2.20pm respectively for the purposes mentioned in Sections	purpose of having a report laid	The company is able to pay all of	of the names and addresses of	default thereof they will
99 to 101 of the Feld Art.	before the meeting and of hear	ins known creditors in full.	The Company's creditors may be inspected, tree of charge, at	excluded from the benefit of a distribution.
Creditors withing to vote at the	ing any explanation that may given by the Administrative	2D Plending, Liquidator Dated: 25th Murch 1997	Buchler Phillips Gray, 144 West	Note: This notice is purely fo
Meetings somet lodge their prory, together with a full statement of	Receivess. Creditors whose	1	hegent Street, Clasgow, G2 280	mak All creditors have been
their debt to the offices of	entitled to attend or be		between 10,000m and 4,00pm on the two business days	will be paid in full Dated: 18 March 1997
Bowhler Phillips, 84 Grusvings i	represented.	1 · 1	preceeding the tiste of the meet.	David Julian Sachler, Liquidat
Street London W1X 9DF not later than 12 moon on 24th April	Please note that a creditor is	The Insolvency Act 1946	ing stated above. Creditors about note that resolutions are	The Annual General Meeting
1007	delivered to vote only if he has delivered to the Administrative	B.T.S.(UK) LIMITED (In Liquidation)	to be taken at the meeting may	The London Playing Fields So ety will take place at 2.30pm
For the purposes of voting, a secured executed	Receivers at EDO Stoy Hayward,]	MOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN UNIT	i individe a resolution specifying (Wednesday 23 April 1997 at t
THE PARTY OF THE PARTY OF THE PARTY	8 Baker Street, London, Wilk 1DA, not inter than 1200 km on	Maurice Reymond Durington FIPA of Poppleton & Applety, 4	the terms on which the Liquids	Civil Service Club, 13 Greet Set
rity) to lodge before the meet-	[22 And 1 1997 datalis in willing [Chartenbouse Susare, London	By Order of the Board	band Yard, London SWI for co sidesation of the Trustee
ings a statement giving particulars of his security, the	or the debt cinimed to be due i	EGIM GEN was appointed Liqui- dator of the said Company by the	Gáry Hagarty - Director	Report and Accounts and I
Jam when it was given and the	from the indebted company, and the cining has been duly admitted	desor of the said Company by the less members and creditions on 19th (other purposes provided in the Society's Charter and Bro-law
value at which it is assessed.	under the provisions of The	March 1997.		Somethe Curries and places
Notice is further given that a list of the names and addresses of	insolvency Rules 1986 and there has been lodged with the Admir-	MRDORRINGTON, Liquidator	1	
the Companies creditors may be	terrorium Receivers and Druky	1	4 	
inspected, free of charge, 21 84 Grosvenor Street, London WIX	which the creditor intends to be	1	TOO AT DETOT	
ODF between 10,000am and	gred on kie bekalf. R Rocking	1. S. F. S. F. F. S. F.	LEGAL PUBLI	
4 Okham on the two business days i	John Administrative Receiver	The Insolvency Act 1986	& PARLIAMENT	TARY NOTICES
preceding the date of the Bost- ing stated above.	The insolvency Act 1986	DODE ENDANT JEWELLERS	TO PLATE NOTICES	
Regulations to be taken at the	LEADURE CONTEN	(In Liquidation)	M.P.ASE TE	THE CASE
metrings that include a sesoin-	MOLICE IN RESERVE CRAIN trust (In Fiderique 1047)	NOTICE IS HERESY GIVEN THAT	0171-68	
which the Liquidator is to be	Dates & Thron PCA of Lathan	thic William Shapperd FIFA of		R
remunerated and the meetings	Crossley & Davis, / Address:	Poppleton & Appleby, 4		481 9313
may receive information about	*** **** TO 3PF was:	'Charlettown Square London)		
he Ded warm to extended. Eld	Crossley & Devis, 7 Kenrick Place, Landon WIH 3FF was attroduced Limitiator of the said	Chartenbouse Square, London BC1M 620 was appointed Liqui	1 41	
or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the autenent of affect and convening the	Place, Landon WIE 3PF was appointed Liquidator of the said Company by the creditors on 12th March 1997.	Chartenbouse Square, London BCIM 65W was appointed Liqui- dance of the said Company by the members and creditors on 25th	Notices are subject to confirmation and a prior to be	should be received by 2.40pm para days

Gas discounts ruling close

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE gas regulator is expected to rule shortly on British Gas's plans to cut prices in the South West, amid industry pressure that the company should be forced to keep its current tariffs and relinquish more market share.

Controversy is mounting over the company's decision to go ahead and offer the 12 per cent discount in letters to its direct debit customers in the region. One rival gas company said that cancellations on its contracts increased 50 per cent when the ofter was made,

Centrica, the new corporate name for the domestic half of the old British Gas, said that there was nothing to prevent it offering the discount before the regulator's ruling. If Clare Spottiswoode outlaws the discount then the company will have to stop the offer, although it will be able to



Clare Spottiswoode is looking at the cut-price offer

honour deals already agreed. Roy Stone, of the Gas Consumers Council in the South West, said: "We are deeply unhappy about this. How British Gas has gone ahead with this offer despite the regulator's investigation beats me." The Office of Gas Supply, Ofgas, says that it is powerless

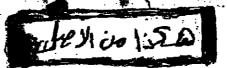
would be able to prohibit its further circulation after the ruling.

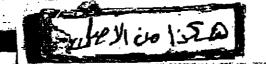
The ruling will be decided on whether or not competition has been established. Centrica will say that it has. Rivals, who fear that customers will slip back to British Gas quick-

ly if the company is allowed to discount, will say it has not and that the former monopoly should be further handcuffed to establish proper compen-

Neil Lambert, joint general manager of Calortex. the largest independent supplier of domestic gas, said: "Competi-tion is at risk of being killed before it has properly started if British Gas can lower its prices now. It still has the vast majority of the market. That cannot be seen as competitive. It needs to be restrained further as it was in the industrial market."

Ms Spottiswoode has never set a target for the loss of market share she wants to see before endorsing price cuts from British Gas. In the South West about 100,150 homes have left British Gas for competitors - 20 per cent of the total. The regulator must decide whether such 2 transfer constitutes a competitive market.







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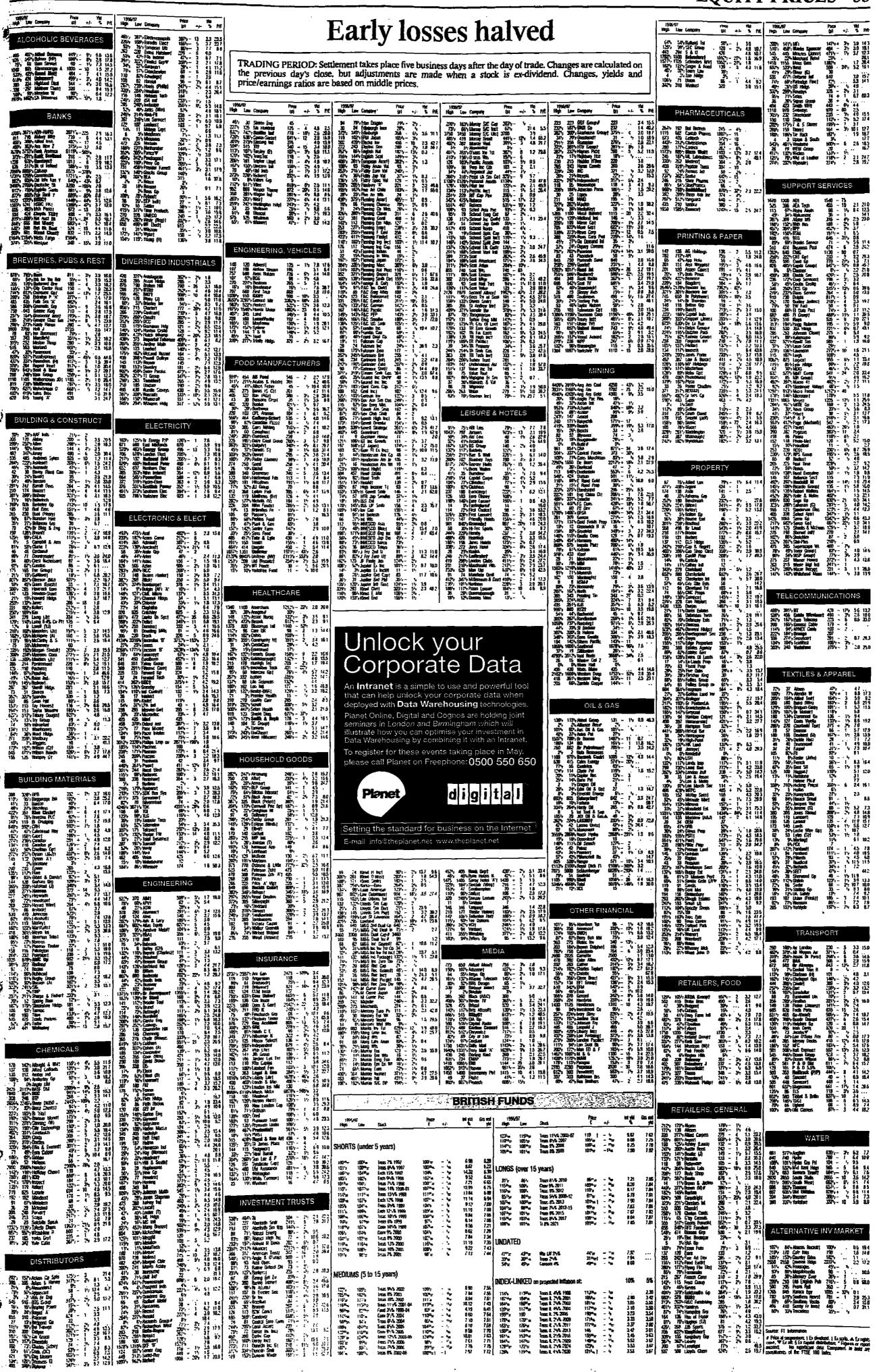
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FILM

From 'natural born killer' to king of porn, Woody Harrelson has no qualms about his new image



THEATRE

Steve Livermore's disappointing new play Skank charts a day in the life of six East London delinquents





RISING STAR

Two years after leaving university David Eldridge has two plays behind him and a third in the West End



■ TOMORROW

Colin Firth stars as the obsessed Arsenal fan in the week's big new cinema release, Fever Pitch

Nice guy in a dirty business

CINEMA: Carol Allen talks to

Woody Harrelson about his

transition from goofy barman to the porn king Larry Flynt

ccording to Woody
Harrelson, who
plays him in the
forthcoming film
The People vs Larry Flynt,
America's most infamous pornographer is "a really likeable
guy with a great sense of

Larry Flynt is the Kentucky redneck strip-club owner who founded the raunchy Hustler magazine in the 1970s, and eventually took his right to publish it to the Supreme Court of the United States. It was a publication which brought Flynt into constant conflict with the obscenity laws, resulted in his being gunned down and left wheel-chair-bound during one of those obscenity trials, and ultimately cast him as the unlikely champion of free speech through his successful appeal to the Supreme Court under the First Amendment to the US Constitution.

the US Constitution.

Flynt was also a womaniser, despite his devotion to his equally promiscuous fourth wife Althea, with whom he also indulged in drug abuse. And he became notorious for his flamboyant and disrespectful courtroom antics involving the American flag. "There are

a lot of rags-to-riches stories but none really quite like his. It's a uniquely American story in a way," Harrelson says, then laughs as he realises the implications of his remark.

Not surprisingly, Milos Forman's film, which opens in Britain next week, has created controversy, not just in terms of opposition from the right-wing moralists with whom Flynt did battle, but also from the Left, most particularly the feminist writer Gloria Steinem, who has protested that the film sanitises Flynt as a genial rascal, rather than showing him as a sleazy exploiter of female flesh.

Also not surprisingly,

Harrelson denies these accusations. "I don't think it makes him a hero. Everything our society could possibly say negatively about somebody, it depicts in the movie. It portrays him very accurately. I think there are a lot of people who have probably decided they don't want to see it no matter how good anyone says it is, and that is unfortunate because they're missing a

great movie."

Before filming began, Harrelson spent a lot of time with Flynt, questioning him closely



Bartender, serial killer and now peddler of female flesh: Woody Harrelson, star of the soon-to-be-released The People vs Larry Flynt, has played them all in his acting career

about his life — including his first sexual experience. "It was actually with a chicken! Not the farm animal I would have picked, but you have to give him credit for being honest about that. He's a very candid guy, you know. That's something I might well have kept quiet about."

Harrelson demonstrates much of the candour and charm with which he makes the character of Flynt palatable on screen. Though his thirming hair is cut close to his skull, those wide blue eyes, the reassuringly homely country drawl and big sunny grin are unchanged from the days when he played his loveable and naive namesake in the hit television series Cheers:

In his own persona,

He also demonstrates an appealing modesty. When asked why Forman chose him for the role, he says: "Milos said, 'Bring me the most white trash actor in Hollywood', so here I am."

It was that "poor white trash" quality that Oliver Stone (who was co-producer of The People vs Larry Flynt) used so effectively in another controversial movie, Natural Born Killers. In Stone's film, Harrelson's appealing image was again exploited in an effort to make an unpalatable character and story acceptable to a wider public. Though here, too, Harrelson argues

that the film was misunderstood by many people. "We saw it as a dark, over-the-top satirical comedy." he explains. However, it is interesting to

note the number of other less than admirable characters he has played since Cheers: the yuppie husband who sells a night with his wife in Indecent Proposal: the transit cop turned robber in The Money Train; and the self-satisfied kidnapped doctor in Michael Cimino's recent New Age flop The Sunchaser. So were these deliberate career choices to get away from the loveable Woody image, or has he been the object of producers making calculated casting deci-

sions to improve the appeal of difficult characters?
"Maybe both," he says. "I kind of take things as they come and like to do different things. I don't think of it as a big effort to get away from Woody. I wouldn't mind playing a simple, loving character again. And certainly it could be argued that, with each successive role, it looks like I've been trying to erode

what's left of my fan base from the Cheers days."

the Cheers days."

Easy though it would be to take Harrelson's candid and sunny manner at face value, there is a darker side to his life. Born in Texas 35 years ago, Harrelson and his two broth-

6 I wouldn't

mind playing a simple, loving character 9

ers were taised in toland by their mother. At seven, he discovered that his absent father was in prison, convicted of a contract killing. Ten years later Harrelson Sr was imprisoned again for a second murder. His son, too, has had his wilder days, though they amounted to a more modest

indulgence in wine, women and song.

However, all that appears to be behind him now, in favour of a simple, rather New Age life. If the lifestyle with his partner Laurago, ra and their two young daughters. Home, when he is not filming, is a four-roomed house in Costa Rica. Wherever he is in the world, he never

misses his daily yoga session. The New Age Harrelson also likes to dress in natural fibres, with a preference for hemp — though as he proudly draws attention to his Armani hemp jacket, you tend to think this is the simple life with a distinctly well-heeled slant. And though he has gone over to a largely vegan diet, he is still no party pooper when he meets up occasionally with old chums from Cheers days." I tip the odd pint. Guinness is my beverage of choice."

Although Harrelson would like to spend more time indulging his love of music with his sometime band — "a cross between folk, rock n' roll, rockabilly, rhythm and blues and country, with a little bit of jazz in there too" — for the moment he has a full slate of films coming up. Last summer he played an American journalist in Michael Winterbottom's Welcome to Sarajevo. loosely based on ITN journalist Michael Nicholson's book. He recently completed a supporting role in David Mamet and Barry Levinson's Wag the Dog — "It's a political satire, so that, too, will probably be misunderstood," he jokes. And

this month he starts work on a new film by Volker Schlöndorff.

Although he bears with equanimity the fact that he falled to add an Oscar to his Golden Globe for Larry Flynt—he correctly forecast that the award would go to Geoffrey Rush—he does have one regret about last month's event. He turned down a role in The English Patient.

in Britain on April II

"They sent me that script and I just didn't get it. I just couldn't see what the movie was going to do. I really bombed out over that."

The People vs Larry Flynt opens

THEATRE: Steve Livermore's new play; plus mime

Drugs, squalor, no big deal

STEVE LIVERMORE has devoured Irvine Welsh's collected works and regurgitated his own version of *Trainspot*ting on stage.

Set in and around a tower block on an East London estate, the play charts a day in the life of six average delinquents, 500 pills, one used 1950s villain and a

children's clown called Kevin.

Livermore leads the light brigade himself. He plays a small-time drug dealer, Dave, who has to gather an impossible amount of money to repay a loan shark, apparently modelled on Ronnie Kray. Muttering vague threats into a mobile phone, the writer, producer and director shuffles around the bare stage in his flashy trainers like a shy

IF YOU want to make physical theatre, one of your first moves is likely to be an inquiry at the door of the esteemed French mime teacher Jacques Lecoq. The members of Hoipolloi Theatre have beaten a path to Paris, and are now applying Lecoq's principles in this country.

Perhaps the most difficult bridge to build is that between the skills of the body and the more elusive crafts of storytelling and dramatisation. With Honestly, the company gets about halfway across. Paul, played by Shôn Dale-Jones, takes a room in an apartment block. Three other performers play a variety of oddball characters: landlord, cleaning lady, other tenants in the building. Paul is initially unable to find his room in the maze of corridors. When he does, it dematerialises amid a swirl of encounters with these peruliar residents.

APRIL

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ат 7.30рм

Skank Old Red Lion, ECl

sixth-former who would rather be elsewhere.

The rest of the cast can only shine by comparison. Back in the tower block, mad Colin and obnoxious Bill get drunk on vodka and crazy on pills. Andy, our narrator and Dave's flatmate, tries to glue a story from this detritus, like Renton in the film version of Trainspotting. His most significant contribution to the plot, however, is to have his nose broken by Russell Levy's

amusing hit man, Gas.
Livermore's one kernel of
inspiration comes, predictably, at the end, In a bout of

Body building

Honestly
Young Vic Studio

There are wisps of Kalka here, but the performers never quite home in on them, preoccupied with creating caricatures rather than developing content. Lecoq teaches that less is more. Living up to this dictum is some task.

Stefanie Müller, who also performs, provides a nicely minimal set three tall right angles which, when standing, suggest a warren of doors and corridors and give the performers just enough space to hide and change behind. There is a neat shift at the end

creative desperation to find a finale to his play, he turns Gas into a clown-loving psychopath who manages to blow his own head off in a juggling routine. If the company had taken all their cues from this moment of infectious lunacy, Skank might have strayed into the surreal and wonderful realm of The People Show. The young actors of Trust Theatre Company, all graduates of East 15, at least have the thing on their side. Time

one thing on their side. Time.
The programme says that a main aim of this production (let's face it, the only aim) is to try to create enough interest in Skank to turn it into a film. In your dreams.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

when these thin corners are turned back to their positions at the start of the show, suggesting the ridges of the apartment block's roof. Paul's natural home is on top of the building rather than inside it, and the final image seems like a not to the closing scene of Delicatessen, the splendidly eccentric French film which ends with the protagonist playing his saw like a cello on the roof at night.

Honestly shares with Delicatessen a nose for the absurd, without following it to the logically grotesque or existential conclusions. The programme suggests that the company took the words "fetishism, obsession and voyeurism" as their starting points, along with the apartment block. The dwelling is suitably evoked, but there is a curious timidity about the rest.

ANDY LAVENDER

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament
DAVID ELDRIDGE

Age: 23
Profession: Playwright

Rapid progress: Less than two years after graduating from Exeter University with a degree in drama and English, Eldridge has a play staged in the West End. Summer Begins (at the Donmar Warehouse until Saturday) follows the 1996 Bush production of his debut, Serving It Up, praised by critics for "confident the-

atricality and verbal swagger. What's the story? Summer Begins follows a month in the lives of four working-

the lives of four workingclass twentysomethings from Barking: two sisters and their respective boyfriends. "It's a character-led play about the ordinariness of life in the suburbs."

Write about what you know: His plays are all set in familiar territory. "I grew up in Romford, which is close to Barking, and Serving It Up takes place on a council estate in Hackney, which is where my parents come from." His A Week with Tony, also seen on the London fringe last year, features upper-middle-class Tories not unlike the people Eldridge studied with as a scholar at an Essex private school.

Why did he start writing? "When I arrived at Exeter, I was gagging to be a director. But I realised there were things I wanted to say that I couldn't express by interpreting someone else's work."

Mentor: "Peter Thomson, professor of drama at Exeter, has a great passion for new writing and encouraged me to send Serving It Up to London theatres, including the Bush."

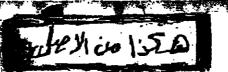
Sarving it Up to London theatres, including the Bush."

Influences and heroes: "Philip Larkin's ideas about the impossibility of marriage struck a chord that I want to explore. I admire David Hare for his massive sweep, and Trevor Griffiths for combining the epic with gritty detail."

Does he keep a close watch on directors? "You hear of writers who get in the way during rehearsals, but I don't. The writer should just be a source of information and support."

Coming soon: He is already revising play number four, provisionally titled Cold Fallen Heart, which explores the relationship between an electrician and a social worker. His first film script is also under way, "It's called The Tall Boy, but I don't want to say anything about it yet."

DANIEL ROSENTHAL



rth stars

bsessed

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POP

In Dublin, several thousand happily mortgaged thirtysomethings go crazy for the Beautiful South



CHOICE 1

Alan Howard offers a rare live performance of the writings of Homer VENUE: From tonight at the Tricycle, NW6

THE



CHOICE 2

Ben Elton's new comedy Popcorn opens its West End run VENUE: Tonight at the

Apollo Theatre



TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

SURTY ST EDIGUNDS: Irving Welsh's blackest of black comedies. Trainsporting, is a drug-fuelled, rollercogster ride through the seamer

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CARDIFF: The Wadalko Ichiro Drummers hom Japan combine

Drammers from Japan combine bit missionsribp, pulsating primeval rhythms and phenomenal physical strength in a visually sturning show. \$1 Dank?s Hell, The Hayes (01:222 878444) Torught, 7.30pm. (5)

GLASGOW: The plants Richard Clayderman gives his only Scotlish date on his Spring lour of Britain. A

ELSEWHERE

CHOICE 3

Pianist Richard Clayderman gives his only Scottish concert in Glasgow VENUE: Tonight at the Royal Concert Hall

POP: While the fans go wild in Dublin, in Glasgow they stay pretty unmoved



Musical chairs: they can't dance, they look demure, so the secret of Beautiful South's success must be their supremely polished, adult pop songs

espite being a longtime admirer of Paul Heaton, 1 have to admit that thère are occasions when I gasp in amazement at the sheer scale of the Beautiful South's popularity.

One such moment was on hearing the news that their greatest hits collection, Carry On Up the Charts, had sold more than two million copies in Britain alone. Another was observing several thousand happily mortgaged thirtysomething suburbanites screaming stagewards in adoration or indulging in mass arm-waving during The Sound of North America which is not even a "greatest hit" but an album track.

It's not that their music is without merit - far from it but Heaton's lyrics always struck me as a little too selfconsciously clever and know- which is where she's heading. and he wore runners as

It's all in the eye of the beholder

ing ever to compete on a commercial level with the likes of Oasis and Celine Dion. 1 was wrong.

The teenybopper-style hys-teria is just as puzzling. Jac-queline Abbott, dressed in a black leather trenchcoat and sensible trousers, is demure and unaffectedly shy. One gets the impression that she would feel uncomfortable singing a song at her best friend's birthday party, never mind in the UK's largest pop venues -

The Beautiful South The Point, Dublin

And she can't dance, so a career as the sixth Spice Girl

Nor are the male vocalists in the band likely to upset Boyzone's wall calendar sales. Dave Hemingway wore a bright orange raincoat and a black woolly hat. Blue was the colour of Heaton's winter coat,

white as washing powder... So the secret of their success must be in the songs. The instantly hummable We Are Each Other, which opened the show, or the incurably catchy You Keep It All In seemed to

suggest as much. Indeed, the Beautiful South make supremely polished. adult pop music that, the odd swear word notwithstanding, is ostensibly tailor-made for daytime radio. But there's no getting away from Heaton's barbed lyrics. The sly innuen-

tricks not long into

the evening. Follow-

yet one of the main criticisms levelled at the Beautiful South is that they're too tasteful. Personally, I preferred Heaton when he played the Christian socialist card in the Housemartins, a band who never overdosed on irony and smart Indeed, the highlight of the set was arguably his stirring version of Lean on Me, where

do and bawdy sexual meta-

phors of the disgruntled pros-

titute in Mirror, for example, would not, one would imag-

ine, be to everyone's taste, and

Heaton's yearning, mournful falsetto evoked the spirit of the great Smokey Robinson. And to be honest, despite the

use of occasional video clips. the show definitely lacked something as a spectacle. But those screaming thirtysomethings would disagree.

NICK KELLY

Impeccably cool street credentials

NEW YORK trio the Fun Lovin' via jobs as bouncers Criminals make music as smooth as their impeccably cool, cartoon-gangster image. Their roguishly handsome singer Huey is a former juvenile Vollender and US Marine who, for reasons of his own, keeps his surname a strict secret. Though born of Irish and Puerto Rican blood. Huey has the look and mannerisms of a young Robert De Niro, rapping his comical fables of Manhattan streetlife over the catchy cocktails of funk, jazz and 1970s hard rock which form the core of the band's excellent debut album Come Find Yourself.

According to their carefully manicured personal mythology, this dapper threesome graduated to performing

While such minor problems could easily be corrected with a fuller sound and a dash more showmanship, the Criminals also seemed to exhaust their

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band's breakthrough single. Scooby Snacks, a playfully folloping paean to the joys of robbing banks on Valium. was something akin to hysteria finally generated among this patient crowd. The trio's current single. The King of New York, was also rapturously re

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SHEMONS

ceived, but the warmest reaction of the repertoire of musical night went to a beautifully measured cover version of John Barry's elegant James Bond theme, We Have All the Time in the World. Huey's guitar was an understated shimmer, his vocal a softly growled homage to the sublime Louis Armstrong original. As the applause died down, he rewarded himself by swigging from a bottle of champagne with all the swaggering panache of a victorious prize-fighter.

Thus the Fun Lovin' Criminals

STEPHEN DALTON

LONDON

ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA: Harry Christophers conducts an all-French programme, starting with Ravel's Le tombeau de Coupern and enting with Faunt's Requern. The cellist Raphael Wallison Joins the orchestra for Faunt's Elegy for cello and orchestra and Sent-Saéns's Cello Concerto, With Connor Burroves, makle Michael Gronne Burroves. treble, Michael George, baritone, and the Talis Chamber Choir. Barbican, Sitk Street, EC2 (0171-638

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Caryl Churchil's first (1979) smash hit

the Victorian era and after Old Vic, Waterloo Road SE1 (0171-928 7616; Tonight, 7.30pm. in rep

■ EAST IS EAST Second West End showing for Ayub Khan-Om's empyable tamily grams, comic and sensus, set in 1970s Saflord where a Palostani

1970s Sanori wirele a ratical parties of children eccording to ancestral traction Royal Court Downstains (Dube of York's), St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-565 5000), Mon-Sai, 7 30pm, mais Sai, 3 30pm Lintal April 25.

NEW RELEASES

BASQUIAT (15): Fescinating portrait of the black grains artist of the 1980s, portrayed by Jeffrey Winght Gate (3) (0171-727-8043) Lumiere (0171-836 0391) Bizzy (0171-737-2121) Screen on the HIII (0171-435-3366) Virgin Chelses (0171-352-5096)

◆ DANTE'S PEAK (12): Erupting volcano threatens Pierce Broaman and Linda Hamilton. Sity script, good

effects.
ABCa: Baker Street (0171-935 9772)
Totlenham Court Road (0171-636
6149) Empire (0990 889890) Odeon
Swiss Cottage (0181-315 4220)
Phoeniz (0181-883 2233) Ris (0171254 8577) UCI Winteleys (2) 0990
88990) Virgin Fulham Road (0171370 2636) Warner (2) (0171-437 4343)

DRIFTWOOD (18): James Spader and Anne Broche manoned in a pretentious Irish drama. Director, Rorian O'Leary ABC Shaffeebury Avenue (0171-836

whimscal comedy with Bill Murray and an elephani. Director, Howard Franklin. Odeon Mezzanine () (0181-315 4215)

LOVE LESSONS (15) Teenage boy learns about love in wartime Sweden.

Widerberg. ABC Swias Centre (0171-439 4470)

Adventures of Schardian children Revival of Lionet Jetines's taméy classic of 1970, with Jenny Agulter

THE RAILWAY CHILDREN (U):

◆ LARGER THAN LIFE (PG): Flat

THEATRE GUIDE

House full, returns only Some seats available

wit, the gravity, the distress Savoy, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888) Mon-Sat, Born; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

 WEATHCLEFF Panned by the critics, loved by the tans, Citif Richard's musical treatment of Withtering Heights reaches London after an extensive nabonal four Helen Hobson plays Cathy, with songs by Tim Rice and direction by Frank Dunlop Lebatts Apollo, Queen Caroline Street, Hammersmith, WS (0171-416 8050) Mino-Sal Sym Linit Apollo, 1181 6050) Mon-Sal, 8pm. Until April 5 THE HOMECOMING: Pinter's Li THE HOMECOMBING: Primer's unnerving comedy, set in a north London house where David Bradley's bullying Max leads the strongele to possess his eldest son's well (Indisay Duncari) Roger Michel directs National (Lyttellion), South Bank, SE1 (0711-928-2252) Tonght-Sai, 7 30pm; mat Sat, 2 15pm In rep. season. Gabrielle Drake plays the

☐ THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OSCAR: Micheál MacLammóir's celebrated tribute to Wilder movingly revived by Simon Callow, conveying the

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol •) on release across the country

315 4216) Swiss Cottage (0181-315 4220) Plaza (0 (0990 888990) Ritzy (0171-737 2121) Screen/Baker Stree (0171-935 2772) UCI Whiteleys (0

 BLOOD AND WINE (15): Seedy adventures of wine merchant Jack Nicholson, Stylish potboller Virgins: Fullham Road (0171-370

moves, West End musicals and popular favourities Royal Concert Half, Buchanan Srisal (0141-287 5511) Tonight, 7:30pm. (2)

HIGH WYCOMBE: DV8 Physical Theatre presents Bound to Please, as part of the origining Swen Dance '97 season Ar a time when "communication systems" are at their most sophisticated, the company explores the sophisticated, the company explores the company or the c amptional and psychological surveil of the individual within society. This evening's performance includes a free post-show decussion with Lloyd Newson, DWS artistic director. Not which to include the pro-

suitable for children
Wycombe Swan, St Mary Street (01494
512000). Tongitt and tomorrow, 8pm.

LONDON GALLERIES LONDON GALLERIES

Anthony d'Offey: Kile Smitr Once I
Saw a Bird (0171-489 4100) Catto
Leita Pesano (0171-435 6660) ...
Chris Beettes Geraldine Gavan (0171-393 7551). Design Museum
Charlotte Permand: Modernist Proneer
(0171-376 6055) Mationati
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Dens Mahon Collection; London's
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Portrait: August Sander (0171-306
0055) . Reyal Academy The Berlin of
George Grosz (0171-399 7438)
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(0171-887 8000) Theo Wastding-Tate Luciano Fabro, Painterly Pop (0171-887 8000) Theo Wadding

last yeer's successful premiere Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 10181-743 3859 Previews forught and domontos 8690 Opens April 4, 7pm Then Mon-Sat, 8pm, Until April 26

D RHINOCEROS, Crizens of a

French lown start turning into rhines timely revival of lonesco's absurdist

Seals at all prices

☐ IVANOV: Raiph Fiermes heads a spiendid cast that includes Home! Water and Oliver Ford Davies, in Jonathan Kent's excellent production of Chekhov's first produced play Almeida. Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404; Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mars Sat, 3pm Uniti Appl. 12

LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN-Braham Muray's production of Wilde down from Manchester for a ren-week season Calamage priorip pays ore woman with a past, Rebecca Johnson the wimous wife without a mother Theatre Royal, Haymanket, SW1 (0171-930 8800), Mon-Sal, 8pm. mats Thus, 3pm, Sat, 5pm.

☐ LANGUAGE ROULETTE: Daragh Carville's last-talking play set in a Bellast pub on a pound-a-pirit night where joility turns to dangerous truth-telling Tim Loane clinets the Tanderbox Theatre production, slightly recast from

uniery retwal of tonesco's absurds: lable, his warming egainst the attractions of lascism Andrea Brooks directs for Cactus Productions, Hitverside Studies, Crisp Road, Harrimersmith, W6 (0181-741 2255) Tue-Sun, 8pm Unit April 20 ☐ ROMANCE, ROMANCE: Musical D Nomanus, Homanus et minstal double-bil by Barry Harman and Keith Hermann, derwed from a Schmitzler ht of love in old Vierna coupled with a modern version set on Long Island Gielgud, Stoffesbury Avenue, W1 (0171–194 5065) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mais Thurs and Sat, 3pm LONG RUNNERS ☐ Blood Brothers Phoenic (0171-369 1733) ☐ The Complete Works of

1733) The Complete Works of William Shakespeere (Abridged) Crienon (0171-369 1737). Harrin Guerre-Prince Edward (0171-447 5400). Les Misserables: Palace (0171-434 0909). Millies Palace (0171-434 0909). The Mousetrap. Si Merin's (0171-836 1443). Oliver! Palacium (0171-494 5020). The Phantom of the Opera Her Majecty S (0171-494 5400). Starlight Express: Apolio Victoria (0171-416 6054).

Berbican Cineme (0171-638 8891) Curzon Phoeniz (0171-369 1721)

 WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S
 ROMEO + JULIET (12) Ellenescent
 contemporary treatment, with Leonardo
D/Caprio and Claire Danes. OlCaprio and Caire Danes. ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-836 6148) Barblean ∰ (0171-638 9991) Claphem Pictura House (0171-498 3223) Notting Hill Coronet ∰ (0171-727 6705) Odeons: Kensington (0181-315 4214) Marble Arch (0181-315 4218) Swiese Cotte Arch (0181-315 4218) Swiese Cotte Arch (0181-315 4218) Swiese Cotte Arch (0181-315 4218)

CURRENT

2636) Haymarket (0171-839 1527) rocadero (5) (0171-434 0031) War lest End (0171-437 4343) ◆ THE CRUCIBLE (12) Weighty version of Arthur Miller's play about 17thcentury witchcraft, with Winona Ryder, Daniel Day-Lewis and Psul Scofield. Director, Nicholas Hytner Odeone: Heymarine (1918) -315 4212; Kensington (1918) -315 4214; Ritzy (1917) -737 2121) Virgin Chelses (1917) -325 5956

HAMLET (PG) Levish, fileral-minded Shakespeare, staged with some panache by Kenneth Branagh With Derak Jacob: and Kate Winslet Curzon Maytair (0171-369 1720)

◆ THE PORTRAIT OF A LADY (12) Jane Campion's icity elegant adaptation of Henry James, with Nicole Kidman as the Independent American sucked into a

riace in Europe Virgin Haymarket (0171-839 1523) ◆ SECRETS & LIES (15): Mike Leigh's Cannes triumph an uneven but absorbing tale about tarney life, its pains, bonds, and skeletons. With

nda Blethyn and Timothy Spail. C Panton Street (0171-930 0631) deon Mezzanine (5) (0181-315 4215) io (0171-254 6677) Ritzy (0171-737

SPACE JAM (U) Sports star Michael Jordan colides with characters from Looney Tunes cartoons. A purenderness, director. Jule Pylika. Ciapham Picture House (0171-458, 3323) Odeons: Kensington (0181-315 4216) Swiss Cottage (0181-315 4220) Ritay (0171-737 2121) UCI Whiteleya (2) (0990 888990) Virgin Cheisea (0171-352 5096) Warner (0171-437 4343)

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and bartenders in various hip New York clubs. Which might explain why they seemed to be playing

much of their Glasgow set on Friday to some smoky late-night basement rather than a cavernous hall packed with 2,000 rock fans. Huey's rasping monologues were only half audible at the best of times, while the music remained a trifle too intimate and downbeat to project very far across the vast Barrowland bailroom.

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en sa musical...with hear

Glasgow Barrowland

ing the thunderous, trumpet-driven romp of their theme song. back groove of Smoke Em, the set seemed to lose momentum and lapse into a succession of stoned raps and

Only with the overdue airing of the

eventually acquitted themselves in Glasgow. But as to whether such uneven flashes of brilliance constitute a truly great show, the jury is still out.

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Flanders: More than 300 concerts and performances at cathedrals, castles, abbeys and baroque theatres in Antwerp, Bruges. Ghent. Mechelen and other towns. Mstislav Rostropovich conducts Romeo and Juliet in Brussels (September 10-October 26). Anne-Sophie Mutter plays Brahms's violin sonatas. Until October: Flanders Festival, Kasteel Borluut, Kleie Gentstraat 46. B-9051 Sint-Denijs-Westrem (32.9.2439494)

Monte Carlo: Springtime on the Riviera, when young soloists join celebrities such as Montserrat Caballé, Murray Perahia and Mstislav Rostropovich in a glittering programme of classical music, ballet, theatre and jazz.

Until May 5: Printemps des Arts, 8 rue Louis-Notari, MC-98000, Monaco (377.92162299)

Schwetzingen: Opera, ballet and classical concerts in the intimate settings of the rococo theatre and astle. La Didone, Così fan tutte, Margaret Price, Concerto Köln and

Schubert's bicentenary. April 26-June 1: Schwetzinger Fest-spiele GmbH, Postfach 106040, D-70049 Stuttgart, Germany (49.711.9293038)

Bergen: French music and theatre. young talents, new Norwegian music and early music. Recitals and chamber music concerts in the homes of Grieg, Ole Bull and Harald Saeverud. Outdoor theatre, literature, folk dancing and visual art. Performances by musician-inresidence Leif Ove Andsnes, Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan, Opéra-Comique from Paris - and Marianne Faithfull

May 21-June 1: Bergen International Festival, Box IS3, N-5001 Bergen (47.55312170)

Brescia-Bergamo: András Schiff, Gerhard Oppitz and Louis Lortie are among the pianists playing music by Brahms, Schubert and



Anne-Sophie Mutter: sure to give her all at Prague Spring

Mendelssohn in two of Lombardy's ancient towns. May 3-June 25: Festival Pianistico Internazionale di Brescia e Bergamo, c/o Teatro Grande, 1-25121 Brescia, Italy (39.30.2930220)

Dresden: The programme has as its theme Italians in Dresden. Operas by Puccini, Donizetti, Wagner and Mozart include Roberto Devereux and Le noize di Figaro. Reinhard Goebel conducts Musica Antiqua Köln in music by Albinoni, Lotti and Ristori and, in a solo recital, soprano Edda Moser performs lieder by Cherubini. Schubert and Strauss. May 17-June 1: Dresdner Musik-

festspiele, Postfach 202723, D-01193 Dresden (49.351.4866-307)

Florence Maggio Musicale: Wagner's Parsifal and Puccini's Turandot in the Teatro Comunale. Concerts by the Philadelphia Or-chestra (conductor Wolfgang Sawallisch) and the Orchestra e Coro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino (Giuseppe Sinopoli and Zubin Mehta among the guest conductors). Dancing in the Piazza della Signoria, and a retrospective of leading Chinese film director Zhang Yimou.



The Salzburg festival in July once again pays homage to the operas and orchestral works of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, the enchanting city's most famous son

May 3-July 2: Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Teatro Comunale, Via Solferino 15, 1-50123 Firenze, Italy (39.55.211158)

Holland: The festival celebrates its golden jubilee, and the music of Matthijs Vermeulen and Mauricio Kagel. Valery Gergiev. Gennadi Rozhdestvensky and Hartmut Haenchen among the conductors. Premieres of Wim Laman's opera Agamemnon and works by choreographers Mats Ek and Hans van Manen.

June 1-30: Holland Festival Infor-mation. Kleine-Gartmanplant-soen 21, NL-1017 RP Amsterdam. Netherlands (31,20,6276566)

Prague Spring: A treat for classical music aficionados. The Prague Symphony, London Symphony, St Petersburg Philharmonic and Czech Philharmonic figure in the strong orchestral line-up. Anne-Sophie Mutter, Alfred Brendel and Gustav Leonhardt are among the soloists, as well as a Petr Eben world premiere. The Dvořák String Quartet Festival takes place from September 1-9.

May 12-June 2: Prague Spring Festival, Hellichova 18, CA-118 00 Praha I. Czech Republic (42.2.533474)

Schubertiade: Some of the most distinguished exponents of cham-ber music celebrate the 200th anniversary of Schubert's birth at Feldkirch and Schwarzenberg in Austria and Lindau and Achberg across the border in Germany. Barbara Bonney, András Schiff, Alfred Brendel, Franz Welser-Möst and Anne Sofie von Otter are among the celebrity performers. In the castle at Achberg, the Schubert 200 exhibition includes manuscripts such as Winterreise and Death and the Maiden, paintings inspired by Schubert's life and his work, the latest findings of academic research and films about the

May 3-September 7: Schubertiade GmbH, Villa Rosenthal, Schweizer Strasse 1, A6845 Hohenems. Postfach 100 (05.5.7672091)

Vienna: Opera, theatre and music on a grand scale. Nikolaus Harnoncourt conducts the Chamber Orchestra of Europe in Schubert's Alfonso und Estrella. Theatrical productions include Richard III and Peter Zadek's version of Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland. Simon Rattle, Riccardo Muti and Murray Perahia are part of an exceptional musical contingent.

May 9-June 22: Wiener Festwochen, Lehargasse II, A-1060

Wien. Austria (43.1.589220)

Barcelona: Highlights of Grec '97 include dance from Wim

Vandekeybus, DV8 and Sasha Waltz, theatre from Thomas Bernhard and Lluisa Cunillé, music from Barcelona 216. Flamenco is the subject of an exhibition. June 25-July 31: Summer Festival

of Barcelona Grec 97. Institut de Cultura, Aiuntament de Barcelona, La Rambla, 99 4a pl, E-08003 Barcelona (34.3.3017755) Budapest: Opera, chamber, cho-

ral, folk, pop and rock music, plus June-August: Budapest Open Air Summer Festival, Interart Festivalcenter, PO Box 80, H-1366 Budapest, Hungary (36.1.1179838)

Drottningholm: Seventeenth-century opera, colourful costumes and



Anton Chekhov: Uncle Vanya set for Zurich and Bregenz

18th-century stage. Jacopo Peri's Euridice and Luigi Rossi's Orfeo. performed for the first time in Sweden, preceded by the ballet Harlequins and Robbers. June 1-August 24: Drottningholms Slottsteater, Bax 27050, S-102 51 Stockholm, Sweden (46.8.6608225)

Ravenna: Music, opera and dance in the Byzantine port. Opera: Valery Gergiev conducts the Kirov's production of Boris Godunov. Dance with the Béjart Ballet Lausanne. Spiritual music from the Chicago Children's Choir. Riccardo Muti estends a bridge of friendship by conducting concerts in both Ravenna and the former Yugoslavia June 19-July 26: Ravenna Festival,

Via Dante Alighieri I, 1-48100 Ravenna, Italy (39.544.213895)

Die Meistersinger.

St Petersburg White Nights: The midnight sun shines on a programme of opera, ballet and concerts in the Maryinsky Theatre (formerly the Kirov). Valery Gergiev and the Kirov Opera join in the festivities.

Last two weeks of June: (In-tourist 0171-538 8600; Page & Moy 0116-Spoleto: Multi-arts festival in the

medieval hill town, featuring opera (Handel's Semele), symphonic and chamber music concerts (Richard Hickox conducts Mendelssohn's Elijah), dance (Dein Perry's Tap Dogs, Dance Theatre of Harlem). theatre, art and cinema. June 25-July 13: Associazione Festival Dei Due Mondi, Via Cesare

Beccaria 18. I-00196 Roma, Italy

(39,473,40700/ 44235)

Zurich: Productions in the Opera House include Schubert's Des Teufels Lustschloss, and the first Swiss performance of Puccini's opera. Le Villi, in a double-bill with Leoncavallo's Pagliacci. Visiting theatrical companies to the Schauspielhaus include Thalia Theater Hamburg and the Deutsches Theater Berlin with productions of Chekhov's Uncle Vanya and Kleist's Der zerbrochene Krug. The musical emphasis is on Brahms, Mahler and Schubert, with performances by Les Arts Florissants, the Chamber Orches-

pher Wool, goes on display in the June 28-July 20: Zürcher Festspiele, Postbox 6036, CH-8023 Zürich (41.1.2154030)

tra of Europe and the Sächsische Staatskapelle Dresden in the

Tonhalle. Birth of the Cool, an

exhibition of American painting

from Georgia O'Keeffe to Christo-

Anten-Provence: Innovation and tradition meet in a bold programme of opera and classical concerts, drawn mainly from the Mozart repertoire. Performances in the courtyard of the 18th-century Archbishop's Palace and the cloister of St Sauveur Cathedral. July: Festival International d'Art Lyrique et de Musique, Palais de L'ancien Archeveche, F-13100 Aix-

en-Provence, France (33.442173434) Bayreuth: Established in 1876 and unique among festivals in its devotion to one composer. Richard Wagner Operas in rotation, topped and tailed by Tristan and

July 25-August 28: Bayreuther Festspiele GmbH. Postfach 100262, D-95402 Bayreuth, Germany

Bregenz: Gotz Friedrich's new production of Gershwin's Porgy and Bess aboard the vast floating stage on Lake Constance. Premiere of Rubinstein's Der Damon in the festival house. Music from the Vienna and Dallas symphony orchestras and drama from the Deutsches Theater, Berlin, includ-

splendid acoustics. Roberto Alagna

and Angela Gheorghiua in concert.

July 12-August 5: Chorégies d'Orange, BP 205, F-84107 Orange

Salzburg: Mozart's birthplace re-

verberates to the sound of his

music. Operatic highlights include La Clemenza di Tito. Die

Entführung aus dem Serail and

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Jessye Norman, Thomas Hamp-

son. Dawn Upshaw and Ann

Murray. Orchestras led by Mariss

Jansons, Bernard Haitink, Kent

July 19-August 31: Salzburger Fest-

spiele, Postfach 140, A-5010 Salz-

Savonlinna: A month of operas

and concerts in the courtyard of

Olavinlinna Castle. This year — the

85th - includes the world premiere

of a new Finnish opera, Aleksis

Kivi, and a new production of

Leoncavallo's Pagliacci and Ma-

scagni's Cavalleria rusticana. The

Maryinsky Theatre performs Prince Igor and Peter Schreier

July 5-August 4: Savonlinna Opera Festival, Olavinkatu 27, FIN-57130

Schleswig-Holstein: International

orchestras and soloists embark on

a musical journey via the European

Romantics. Classical Vienna and

Norway to 35 venues across the

most northerly state in Germany.

July 5-August 24: Schleswig Hol-

stein Musik Festival, Jerusalem-

Verona: The 75th festival of opera,

ballet and music in the magnificent

Roman arena. José Carreras and

Keith Olsen share the role of Don

José in Carmen, Zubin Mehta

conducts Verdi's Requiem Mass,

July 4-August 31: Ente Lirico Arena

di Verona, Piazza Brà 28, 1-37100

Carla Fracci dances Macbeth.

Verona, Italy (39.45.8051811)

berg 7, D-23568, Lübeck

(49,451,38957-0)

sings Bach.

(358.15.476750)

Savonlinna, Finland

Nagano, Claudio Abbado, etc.

burg, Austria (43.662.8045-0)

Cedex, France (33.49.0518383)

ing Uncle:Vanya.
July 17-August 21: Bregenzer Festspiele, Kartenburo, Postfach 311, À-6901 Bregenz, Austria (43.5574.407-6)

Gstaad: Chamber music and recitals in Saanen church, orches-



José Carreras: one gentleman in Verona, singing Carmen

tral concerts in the giant marquee. Gidon Kremer, Tabea Zimmer-mann, Yuri Bashmet among the soloists. Quartets include the Leipzig. Brodsky and Chillingirian. Founder Yehudi Menuhin's son, Jeremy, conducts the Estonian National Orchestra in a programme of film music. July 18-September 6: Musiksommer Gstaad-Saanenland, Chalet Rialto, Postfach 382, CH-3780

Gstaad, Switzerland

(41.33.7488338)

Kuhmo: Chamber music by Monteverdi. Vivaldi, Beethoven, Boccherini. Dvořák and Bartok is billed alongside new commissions from Kimmo Hakola and Einojuhani Rautavaara, and works by more than 70 American

July 13-27: Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival, Torikatu 39. FIN-88900 Kuhmo, Finland (358.8.6520936)

Orange Opera: Lucia di Lammermoor. Tristan und Isolde and Turandot (with Barbara Hendricks and Simon Estes) performed against the magnificent backdrop of the Roman ampitheatre, with its

artistic direction of violinist Isabelie van Keulen. Two world premieres: Songs and Games by Smit, and Isabelle's Hide-away by Mendelssohn. Soloists include Gidon Kremer, Enrico Pace Vadim Repin and Imogen Cooper. August 2-10: Delft Chamber Music Festival, Netherlands Reservations Centre, PO Box 404, 2260 AK Leidschendam (31:70:3202500)

Delft: Launch of a new chamber

music festival in the atmospheric

setting of the Prinsenhof, under the

Helsinki: A riot of music classical, world, jazz, pop and rock -- dance, drama, literature, visual arts, computer installations and film. Conductors Salonen, Saraste, Segerstam and Mustonen direct the Finnish RSO, Helsinki Philharmonic. Avanti! Chamber Orchestra and Tapiola Sinfonietta. Venues include theatres, the opera house, museums, restaurants and the prize-winning Huvila tent. August 22-September -7: Helsinki Festival. Rauhankatu 7 E. FIN-00170 Helsinki, Finland (358.9.1354522)

Lucerne: The theme of nostalgia is central, with the spotlight focused squarely on Schubert. On a more unusual note, Lucerne becomes the capital of whistling with a programme of concerts, lectures, lessons and films on the phenomenon. Composer Wolfgang Rihm takes up residency, while visiting orchestras include the Warsaw National Philharmonic, Philharmonia, Budapest Festival Orchestra and Dallas Symphony Orchestra. Claudio Abbado, Riccardo Chailly and Mariss Jansons among the top conductors: Martha Argerich, Andras Schiff, Joshua Bell and Hakan Hardenberger among the illustrious-soloists.

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August 16-September 10: Internationale Musikfestwochen Luzern, Postfort CFE 1002 Luzeri Switzerland (41.41.2103562)

Utrecht Early Music Historically informed performances in medi-eval churches, baroque salons and modern concert venues. Music by Ockeghem and Schubert is played alongside recently discovered jewels under the theme Music of Naples, 1400-1800, music from Latin America, and the living tradition of Sufi music. August 29-September 7: Holland

Festival of Early Music Utrecht. Postbox 734, NL-3500 AS Utrecht, Netherlands (31.30.2362236)

SEPTEMBER:

Aarhus: The biggest and best multi-arts fest in Scandinavia. September 6-14: Aarhus Festival, Officersbygningen, DK-\$000 Aarhus C. Denmark (45.893)8270)

Berlin: The Berlin orchestras share the stage with Claudio Abbado, John Eliot Gardiner. Yakov Kreizberg, et al. Bryn Terfel and Anne Sofie von Otter sing. Recitals by Maurizio Pollini and Tabea Zimmermann, chamber music from the Vogler and Arditti

September 6-30: Berliner Fest-spiele, GmbH, Postfach 301648, D-10748 Berlin, Germany (49.30.25489-250)

Eisenstadt: Haydn's music is fêted in the Austrian province of Burgen-land. Highlights include a new fully staged production of Il mondo della luna and a rare opportunity to hear the oratorio Applausus. Orchestral concerts in the worldfamous Haydnsaal of the Esterhá-2y Palace vie with chamber recitals in the neo-classical Empiresaal. September 11-21: Haydn Festival. Schloss Esterházy, 7000 Eisen-stadt, Austria (43.2682 618660)

Mondsee: Chamber music in an idyllic lakeside setting. Founder and musical director Andras Schiff brings together musicians Peter Schreier, Robert Holl and Gidon Kremer to celebrate the music of Shostakovich, and the anniversaries of Schubert and Brahms. September 4-14: Musiktage Mondsee, Postfach 3, 5310 Mondsee, Austria (43,6232 2407)

Specialist travel companies include:

Brompton Travel (0181-549 3334): Savontinna, Verona ● Chamber Music Holidays (01202 528328): Prague Spring Habsburg Heritage (0181-761 0444): Eisenstadt, Mondsee
 Intourist (0171-538 8600): Russia

● Page & Moy (0116-252 4433): Bregenz, Prague Spring, Ravenna, Schubertiade, St Petersburg White Nights, Verona ● Prospect Music and Art Tours (0181-995 2151); Bregenz, Eisenstadt,

Prague, Mondsee, Salzburg, Savonlinna, Schubertiade; Verona

Martin Randall Travel (0181-742 3355): Drottningholm, Mondsee, Prague, Salzburg, Savonlinna, Schubertiade, Verona ● Travel for the Arts (0171-483 4466): Bregenz, Chorégies d'Orange, Drottningholm, Ravenna, Savonlinna, Verona

called Idris, who paced round our

Welsh fields with an electronic divining rod,

we now have Channel 5 bright and clear in a

region so remote that neither mobile radio,

FM, nor mains water can penetrate it. The

Channel 5 people had advised me that my

nearest sure viewing point would be Birmingham or Cardiff.

For those who can't get it. I am sorry but

not very. Channel 5 was never going to be

anything but a patchwork of underused wavelengths, reachable by no more than 80

per cent of the population, maximum. There

is no excuse for feeling hard done by if you

are out of reach of its signal, unlike BBC

services for which all (with television sets)

Those who are 5-less can join the chorus

now chanting "Do we need a fifth channel?"

But I hope they won't. Quite apart from the fact that I like what I have seen.

the question belongs in the attic

with "Do we need Channel 4?".

"Do we need colour television?"

We need Channel 5 because it is

there: free, terrestrial and avail-

able to the vast majority who so

far have elected not to invest in a

satellite dish or a cable connec-

tion. Why should they not get

maximum yield out of the equip-

But is it a real increase in

choice? The moral disapproval that this

question reeks demands a straight answer.

Yes. Any increase in the quantity of national

television channels from four to five is a

qualitative gain. Another option is now

available for the many nights when four

channels offer nothing of interest.

Innovative? Creative? Oh, nanny please!

Britain is better served than any country I

know with challenging, imaginative risk-taking, witty, artistic, television drama,

documentary and discussion. BBC2 and

Channel 4 are the kind of thing they call

Channel 5 does offer something utterly

"National Treasures" in Japan.

ment they already own?

"Do we need talking

have to pay whether they get them or not

The TV channel with a

BRENDA

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TIVALS Anne Sofie ter in Berlin 'r a selection summer's ts events 1 Europe

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different: predictability, the same thing at the same time every night. This is a service for all those who like to collapse in front of the set without consulting a computer grid of information in advance. Sameness may turn out to be more subversive than it looks. The nightly chat show offered by the same presenter is an invitation to danger, and a new ingredient in the national mix, some where to turn after Newsnight. Jack Docherty won my vote on opening night with a tasteless joke about a San Diego

newspaper advertising 39 anoraks for sale. If I had to describe Channel 5 in a single word, it would not be "American", but rather 'regulated". It is a creature of the Independent Television Commission. It does what it

difference - predictability ell. I'm alright Jack. Thanks to a is told to do, which is to provide the same mandatory elements — news, current affairs. children's and religious programmes - as the other two commercial terrestrial channels. Like them. Channel 5 must also produce original programming. And it may not show on average more than seven

minutes of commercial an hour. This news, moreover, must be both national and international, and of high quality. The supplier is Independent Television News, the same organisation that feeds ITV and Channel 4 news. Just because Channel 5's presenter Kirsty Young sits on a desk rather than behind it, does not mean the news will be downmarket.

It was a low blow of Channel 5 to advertise its news - every night at 8.30 followed by a film - with the boast "We don't have the annoying habit of interrupting the plot for the news". How ITV would love to give up that annoying habit! It has begged to move

News at Ten for the obvious reason that by the time a film is resumed at 10.30, most viewers are heading for bed. But the political ructions are as bad as if the question were the adoption of year-round summer time. So Channel 5 is free to hit ITV in its soft underbelly -- and then some. By casting the refreshingly monotone-clad and unsmiling Young as presenter, it may have picked up a gravitas that was not expected. Channel Five's frequent news

updates could also hit the BBC where it will hurt - in the 24-hour digital news. You may have noticed that there is not much new news during the ordinary day. If a quick click to Channel 5 will give us the headlines on the hour we will have less incentive to invest in the digital gubbins to catch the BBC's version.

Whether Channel 5 will succeed, I have no idea. But 1 do know that it is a commercial venture, undertaken by those willing to throw more than £22 million into it on the chance that it will. If it fails, they will lose their money. If the BBC's 24-hour news fails, we will all pay through the licence fee.

↑ hannel 5's debut leaves two conspicuous gaps in British television. Its air is young, younger even than Channel 4's. Who will provide television for the oldies? ITV has the honour and doesn't much like it. The other gap is local television. Local evening news is one of the glories or 'gories" of American television, which is centred on cities rather than national

One of the rejected proposals for Channel 5 would have based it on British city stations, oined in a loose federal structure. But the ITC chose not to go down that road. For local television, the only hope is cable. For that you have to pay. Channel 5, if you can receive it, is something for nothing.

The seven deadly days

ex and sleaze among Tory MPs have dominated newspaper front pages for seven days and prompted accusations that the Labour Party. led by its campaign manager Peter Mandelson, is manipulating the news agenda to drown the Tory campaign.

It started last Thursday with The Sun's scoop about the Tory MP Piers Merchant and his fling with a Soho nightclub hostess and the simultaneous resignation of Tim Smith, the Tory MP for Beaconsfield. They hit the headlines after several days when the election had almost disappeared from the front pages. The two stories, followed by the weekend downfall of Sir Michael Hirst, chairman of the Scottish Tories, prompted six days of sex and sleaze headlines.

On the fifth day, the question for William Rees-Mogg in The Times was whether the Labour Party had dirty hands, The public had been sickened by the triviality and prurience in the "sleaze election", he argued. By inviting electors to concentrate only on secondary issues, it had made British democracy seem immature and it was Labour's fault. Mr Mandelson, singled out

by Rees-Mogg as the spindoctoring mastermind of the campaign, responded yesterby stating that although Labour supported those Conservatives who thought that Neil Hamilton should stand down at Tatton, Labour had had nothing to do with the sex and sleaze stories. Showing the felicitous touch that has earned him his reputation, he added that it was insulting to portray newspapers as "marionettes" in a media show promoted by Labour.

News editors have no wish to bore their readers, especially over an Easter weekend and before the campaign started in earnest yesterday. Yet on Saturday, Sunday, Monday, yesterday - and almost certainly this morning — sex and sleaze remained the front-page stories in the broadsheets and the Mail group. That was because Sir Michael's downfall, the survival of Mr Merchant, the refusal of Mr Hamilton to stand down, and the changing signals from John Major were the best stories of the day. Only the Express has studi-



The next four weeks will demonstrate the effect of a week of sex and sleaze headlines on voting behaviour

ously avoided placing the sex and sleaze stories on its front page. The Daily Telegraph has led on the story but equally studiously avoided using — perhaps by editorial dictat - the words "sex" and 'sleaze" in headlines.

The frustration at the Daily Mail, which has been much less slavish in its coverage of the Conservative campaign than The Daily Telegraph, was demonstrated in its main headline yesterday: "Sleaze: Major Acts At Last". Note that 'At Last". A day earlier it had declared that many voters would regard Mr Major's angry silence, unfairly, as an abdication of leadership.

PAPER ROUND Brian MacArthur Against the Rees-Mogg in-

terpretation, Robert Harris argued in The Sunday Times that sex and sleaze were the central issues in this election. even more so than the economy. As he watched local Tory parties defying Central Office and Mr Major raging impotently about "junk" coverage, he was reminded of how tired

Percentage of readers who say they are going to vote for the main parties

-20

HOW NEWSPAPER READERS INTEND TO VOTE

-30

the Tories were and how unhealthy it was for one party to exercise an effective freehold on power: "The Conservatives are decadent in the purest

The next four weeks will demonstrate the effect of a week of sex and sleaze headlines on voting behaviour. With its declaration for Tony

52

Telegraph 53 29 13

Blair and its Piers Merchant scoop, The Sun has already scored two notable hits - and sparked a debate about the power of newspapers in persuading readers how to vote.

Our table measures the political allegiances of national newspaper readers so far this year (to March 17) and will be the benchmark against which that power — if it exists — can be measured during the campaign. It is based on 13,000 interviews by MORI and shows that only four of the 19 national newspapers, the daily and Sunday titles of the Telegraph and Express groups, have an overall majority of readers who say they will vote Tory - but by much smaller margins than in 1992.

The weekday paper with the biggest percentage of Tory readers is The Daily Telegraph; on Sunday it is the Express. All four News International titles - The Sun, the News of the World, The Times and The Sunday Times have an anti-Tory majority, as does the Financial Times. How will this change over the next four weeks?

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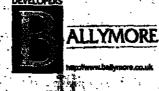


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All we want from life is a house in the country

he property pages of Country Life are a great barometer of Britain's economic health. My bookshelves house a run of the magazine from the 1950s onwards and it is all too easy to reach for those from the late 1980s as each issue resembles a small telephone directory.

That was the apogee of the property boom, reflecting an era when the top rate of tax became 40 per cent, less than half the punitive rate of the previous decade. By then the magazine had gone over to colour and houses took on a new delectability. The contrast with the one solitary property page in that first issue in 1897 could not have been greater.

It is no secret that most people look at Country Life's property advertisements before they look at anything else. Property has been and still is at the heart of the magazine's philosophy.

It is striking, looking at these advertisement pages over the century, to note how little — rather than how much — taste has changed. At its core is that middle-class ideal of a house surrounded by garden and enough land to secure privacy, set in what could be deemed country. What has changed is that the ideal — in 1897, available only to the few - has spread through an ever-widening section of society. In this way, ironically, Country Life's exhortation of the rural idyli has contributed to what the magazine spends its time deploring - the progressive urbanisation of the countryside.

The bread and butter of Country Life's property pages was never the great houses and estates, although, of course, they figure. The vast majority of the property has been suburban and Home Counties. The advertisements are indexes of middle-class taste, the desire for a dream house of the type evolved under the influence of the architects of the Arts and Crafts movement, vaguely Tudorbethan, asymmetrical and slightly rambling, but with all mod cons and within striking distance of London.

Rookery Nook Tudorbethan, real or reproduction, has never lost its hold. Even today it is still being built. But the rediscovery of the Classical style was to take much longer. Oak beams and plaster were seen as somehow "English", a view fuelled by endless books on the style between the wars, whereas anything Classical was regarded as cold and, above

although it was not until after 1945 that it took off as a style with selling potential. By then. Tudorbethan had percolated down the social scale and Regency was all the rage, its clean lines and unclunered interiors having an understandable com-patibility with the watered-down modernism of the 1950s. Its scale was that of the smaller residences, the rectories of Jane Austen's England. Nothing was to impede this steady progress of the Classical style to where it is today. As with Tudorbethan, Classical has spread across the social strata and, where supplies run out, approximations are easily built.

So we now have two saleable ideals. The third, of accessibility to London,



Small beginnings: the first advert

never shifts. It is there at the outset, and even more so in the 1920s, when car ownership widened and London Under-ground extended its lines as far as Edgware. In December 1924, Country Life summed this up, saying: "The small car is contributing to bringing within the ambit of building development places that, even a year or two ago, were regarded as outside the residential range for persons whom business and pleasure drew daily to the towns. 'Room for a garage' is the current commonplace."

What changes as the century progresses is size. After 1945, the demand for what a June 1957 article called "large cumbersome houses" collapses. The article goes Nonetheless, Country Life pioneered on to restate the fact of the perpetual mar-

London, but suggests that the taste for Georgian and Queen Anne, until then highly prized, was giving way to Tudor again. Even small Victorian houses, it was noted, had ceased to be a drug on the

The emphasis after 1945 is always on labour-saving in what had become a servant-less age. In terms of the pursuit of comfort there is one long escalation. Central heating had been regarded as American and unnecessary until it became a big selling factor in the early 1960s. By then, swimming pools had also begun to become an essential attribute.

Comforts multiplied again in the 1980s when whirlpool baths appeared, together with saunas and private cinemas. At the same time, interior decoration made its debut as a selling ingredient, whole houses clearly having been "done over" to tempt a socially aspiring purchaser.

This over cult of consumer display was a reversal of the post-1945 austerity, when any form of estentation or display was out. Houses with any element of external grandeur smacked of the old order of things. By the close of the 1950s, the progressive erosion of the moneyed upper classes had produced a boom in properties in tax havens such as the Channel Islands, Bermuda and the Bahamas. Equally, it was responsible for a rash of buying in Italy, Spain and Portugal, where not only was property cheap, but servants were still to be found.

t the same time as one group in society was being ground down, the newly meritocratic rich were extending their wings and acquiring second homes. By the mid-1960s, cottages 150 miles from London, however derelict, were at a premium, fetching as much as £3,000. By the close of the decade, second homes in southern Spain began to appear.

The home market took a fresh twist in the middle of the 1970s. It was only then that period authenticity began to become an important selling point. Progressively, the measure of desirability was less that a house had been modernised, and more that it was in its pristine state or that it had been painstakingly restored.

The demand for period property is still with us and, because its supply is finite, is likely to remain so.

The author is a garden historian and

The view across the fields

is the thickest for issue of Country Life many years. Does that not fill you with rapture?

It should. The size of Country Life has proved, over the decades, to be an exact index of the national economy. So the seven fat years of the 1980s

Clive Aslet reports on the role of dreams in the property market

were followed by the seven lean years of the 1990s. Now and soon no doubt old ladies

times of plenty have returned, will again complain, as one

did in the 1980s, that the issue is too heavy to hold up while reading in bed.

Well, that's my dream. There has always been a element about the Country Life property ads. Some readers actively seek to buy the houses we advertise. But at this exclusive end of the market there do not have to be an awful lot of such people to keep the show going. There is a finite supply of beautiful houses, and even fewer of them within easy striking distance of London, which is where the recipients of the

large City bonuses want to be. There are plenty of potential buyers around these days. but too few sellers. So some of them are temporarily doomed to stay in the ranks of Country Life's unnumbered army of dreamers. An extraordinary thing about the British is that

we all love to imag-ine living some-where else. The owners of the prettiest houses are often the worst; their fingers constantly itch to get to work on a new place, the more tumbledown the better. It is a peculiarly Anglo-Saxon phenom-

in bed'

To judge from their magazines, the fantasies of most continentals turn on becoming celebrities, or at least enjoying their lifestyle. The British, by contrast, focus their imaginations on chandeliers, Georgian staircases, vistas of parkland and sporting rights. We like to identify with places, and to establish homes that might last for generations. The Americans have no

such attachment to places: they have always been a mobile society, ready to upsticks and move to the other side of the Continent in a moment. The British still seek to root themselves to one spot - almost literally, given the present passion for gardening. The grandest in the land are frequently on their knees worshipping at some herba-ceous border or potager. When I sought to compliment a French aristocrat by saying l



Asiet: years of plenty?

had heard he was a great gardener, he looked positively offended. I knew that he possessed a beautiful garden, of which he was proud. But he would no more have admitted tending it himself than mak-

ing his own clothes. In British architectural history, the study of country houses is far more advanced than that of town halls, prisons, hospitals. municipal

'Old ladies baths or even townhouses. For will say that, Country Life, with its weekly arthe issue is ticle on a great house, may be too heavy partly to blame. But it reflects natto hold up ional priorities. So. in another way.

does the Department of the Envimament's prediction that vast numbers of new homes must be constructed in the countryside. Whereas the rural areas of other European countries are still depopulat-

travel, thanks to the communto bring up children.

private arcadia. They will still how to do it. ■ The author is Editor of Country

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people with money will want to insulate themselves from the horrors of the modern world. To do so, they will want to own land - enough. at least, to protect their view. They will have less reason to ications revolution. In fact. they will turn to the country as the safest and healthiest place

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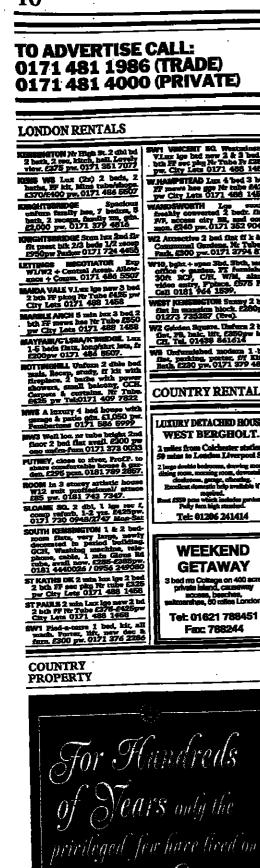
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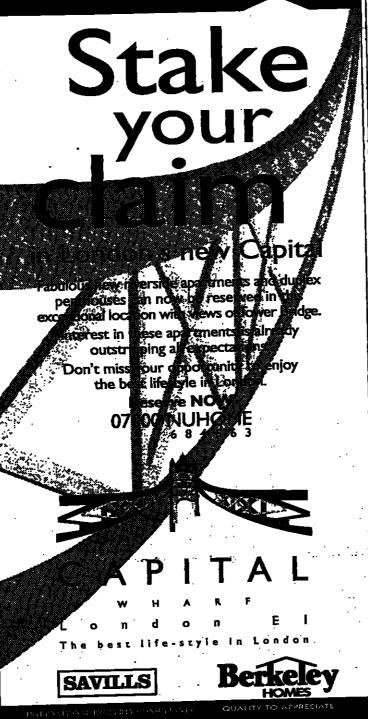
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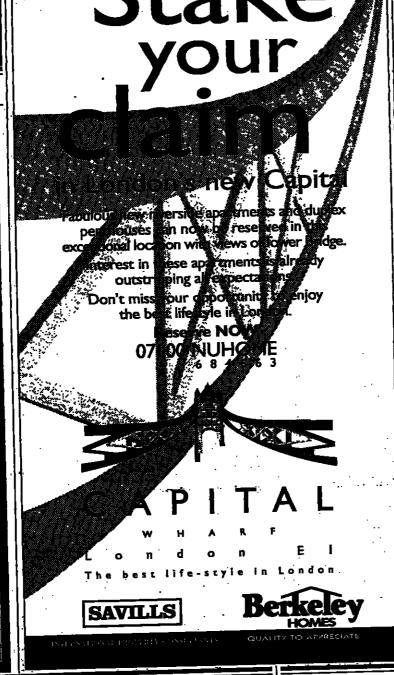
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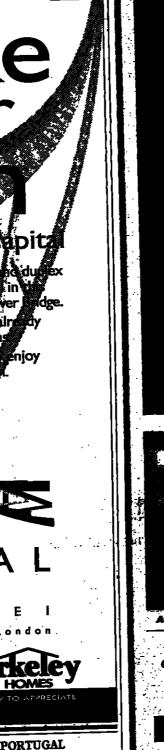
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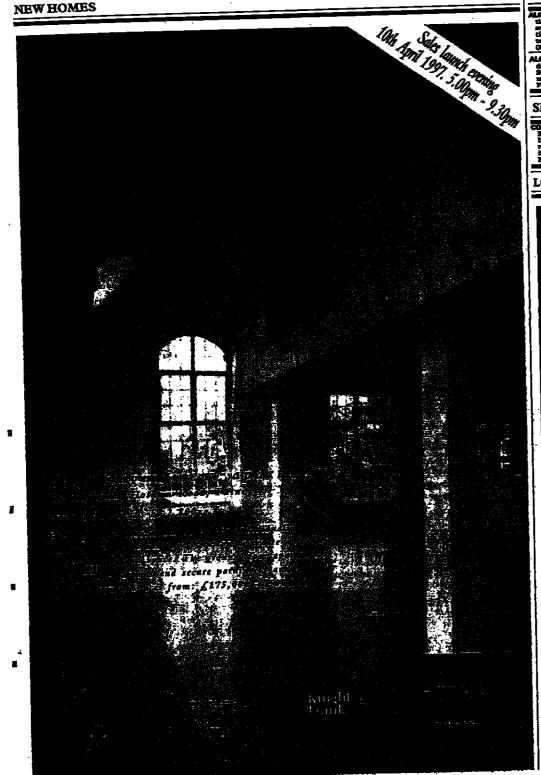
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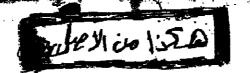
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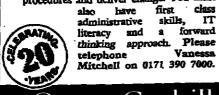
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Secretaries: We have a host of hot bookings to

RUGBY UNION

Malone moves to full back for vital Wasps visit

By David Hands, rugby correspondent

endure a round of media

requests before readying him-

self for the clash with Wasps.

No 8 and as captain, with Eric

TOP FIVE

Miller moving to the blind-side flank, while, in Potter's

absence, Craig Joiner reverts

to the centre. Dwyer said of

Wasps: "They have a great back row and you have to be

very careful with Andy Gomarsall. He takes a lot

upon himself but he can be

Yet, both Dwyer and Nigel

will play Swansea at Cardiff a

In reaching the last four, the Gwent club have achieved

the first of their two targets for

the season and should they

attain the second ambition —

a place among the top six

clubs in the first division -

there will be a substantial

success bonus for the club's

players.
"We have had the money

put aside all season and we

hope to pay it out," Malcolm

Shepherd, the Ebbw Vale chairman said. The players

have worked extremely hard

and deserve to be rewarded."

sea in the league on Saturday,

are eighth in the table, but

Neath, Newport, Bridgend

and even Cardiff are all

within their reach before the

season's end.

Ebbw Vale, who play Swan-

very dangerous."

Cardiff paired with

peak-form Llanelli

By David Hands

day earlier.

Dean Richards resumes at

LEICESTER added an intriguing twist to their vital Courage Clubs Championship meeting with Wasps, the first division leaders, at Welford Road tonight when they dropped John Liley from their team. Instead, Niall Malone, most of whose senior rugby has been played at stand-off hall or centre, will take over the role of full back against Wasps, who have yet to win a

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SCAFFIE

State of the State

egidil. The second of th

league game at Leicester. Liley, the club's record points-scorer, has failed to end a run of indifferent form and Leicester are further unsettled by the absence of Stuart Potter, their strong-running centre, with a shoulder injury. Bob Dwyer will hope that this morning's announcement of the British Isles party to tour South Africa will not provide additional distraction, though Leicester entertain realistic hopes of providing five players, including Martin John-son, who is favoured to

captain the Lions. Dwyer has few doubts over Johnson's capacity in the role. "He is given a huge amount of respect by the other players in Melville, the Wasps director of

LLANELLI'S financial prob-

lems have received an almost

constant airing this season but on the pitch they are

coming good when it matters, and when there are prizes to

They are the team the

league leaders are watching

with interest as they come up

on the rails. Yesterday they were drawn to play Cardiff in

the semi-finals of the Swalec

Cup, at the neutral — though

very West Walian - venue of

are the side we didn't want to

meet." Gareth Davies, Car-

diff's chief executive, said.

They are playing tremendously well, getting both the

results and producing a style

everyone appreciates and wants to watch."

Meanwhile, the unfancied

Ebbw Vale, having reached

only their third semi-final.

"On current form Llanelli

Swansea on April 13.

the team," the Leicester direcrugby, accept that this is only tor of rugby, said. "When he one match in a heavy end-oftalks, people listen." season schedule. Melville's It is also Dwyer's belief that club leads the division by six the Lions will be best served points from Bath by a player close to the heart of Leicester, lying third and also the action, though, if Johnson six points adrift, have two is named, he will have to games in hand,

"It is a big league game and I hope it will be a decent game to watch, but, if you look at the run-in this month, nothing will be cut and dried. Melville said.

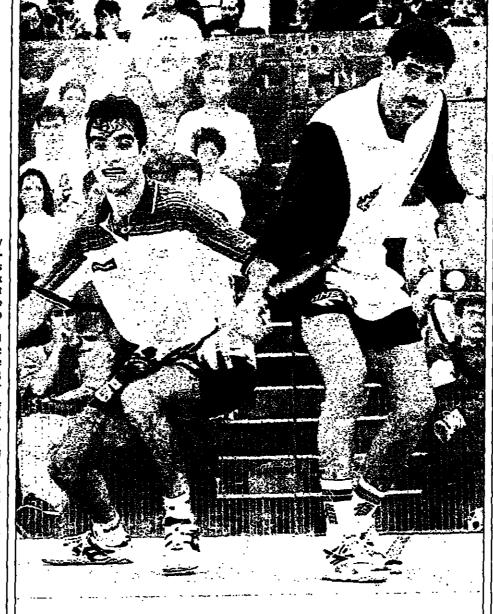
It is a tribute to the fitness of the Wasps players that they have had to make relatively few changes in recent weeks. Chris Sheasby returns at No 3 for a game likely to attract an attendance of 17,000, and, after the game against Bath on Sunday, Wasps will be able to take it relatively easy, with only weekend fixtures to concern them rather than the plethora of midweek games that some of their rivals face.

Those include Bath, who visit Sale at Heywood Road this evening hoping to prolong their own grip on the league title. It is a curiosity that Sale have enjoyed greater success at Bath - a draw and a win in the past two seasons - than they have at home, but no one ventures north these days with anything but respect for Sale's achievements.

Dewi Morris will be absent, after sustaining a blow to the neck during the Pilkington Cup semi-final victory over Harlequins on Saturday; his place at scrum half goes to John O'Reilly, John Mitchell joins the replacements, with Dave Erskine moving to No 8 and Neil Ashurst and Andy Morris playing as flankers while, in the front row, Murray Driver, the New Zealand-

er, plays tight-head prop. If Bath are to overhaul Wasps, then Sale will have a considerable say in their destiny; of Bath's seven remaining league games, two are against the Cheshire club, whose own ambitions remain fixed on a top-four finish and a place in the Heineken Cup.

Bath, however, suffered a setback last night when Simon Geoghegan withdrew from the side. The Ireland wing, who entertains an outside hope of making the British Isles squad, is still not matchfit. His place is taken by Jon Sieightholme.



Ryan, left, braces himself to retrieve a Jansher backhand in Cardiff yesterday

Rules provide Walker with walkover to second round

By Colin McQuillan

We had all been operating

without spoiling Billy's chance

of getting into the first round. I

was assured by the tourna-

ment manager. Don Saunder-

son, that Ham today [Tuesday]

"I didn't want to be selfish

about it. This is a great

tournament which deserves a

full field and Billy should have

had the chance to play that he

Professional Squash Associ-

ation executive director, John

Nimick, saw things this way

and, while Saunderson

viewed the lucky-loser rule as

activating separately on each

day of the first round and was

Neither Walker nor the

was lucky enough to draw."

was the deadline.

CHRIS WALKER, the Enged points and prize-money land captain and No 5 seed in and a walkover be awarded to the Leekes British Open the opponent. squash championship, played on the 'lucky-loser' rule," Heath said. I even checked the rule book rather than the game to advance to the second round in Cardiff yesterday. how late I could withdraw

Walker's scheduled oppo-

nent on the second day of the men's opening round — Mar-tin Heath, of Scotland, the world No 19 - withdrew an hour before the start of play, expressing concern over a foot injury. According to the tournament rules, this would have allowed Billy Haddrell, of Australia, the lucky loser drawn from the qualifying rounds on Sunday, to take Heath's place in the main draw, but further investigation of prize-money rules revealed that, once the first round was under way, the withdrawing injured player, if

in attendance, must be award-

keen to place Haddrell in the draw. Nimick insisted that the prize-money rule had been activated at the start of the first round on Monday and thus

Walker was entitled to a bye. The dispute overshadowed a firm start in the event by the defending champion, Jansher Khan, of Pakistan, who dismissed Derek Ryan, of Ireland - to whom he lost in the Super Squash League at Surbiton two weeks ago - 15-7, 15-6, 15-9 in 58 minutes. Jansher's next task in pur-

suit of his sixth British Open is tomorrow against Joseph Kneipp, an Australian qualifier, who vesterday unseated the No 15 seed, Paul Gregory. Walker will next meet the Welsh champion, David Evans, who yesterday defeated Jason Nicolle, of Nottingham, 15-4, 15-7, 15-3 in just 29

SNOOKER

Comeback keeps Bond in frame

BY PHIL YATES

NIGEL BOND retained hopes of a successful defence of his British Open title when, displaying admirable character, he defeated Andy Hicks, the local favourite, 5-4 in the last 32 of the season's penultimate world-ranking event in Plymouth yesterday

Bond, who bear John Higgins 9-8 on the black in the final last year after requiring a snooker in the deciding frame, is becoming a master of brinkmanship, having recovered from a 4-2 deficit to beat Stephen Hendry in the semifinals of the Thailand Open three weeks ago.
The laconic Derbyshire

player also makes a habit of silencing partisan crowds. He did so when overcoming Tony Drago to win the Rothmans Grand Prix in Malta early this season and when eliminating James Wattana from the Thailand Open.

Breaks of 56 and 52 helped Hicks to build a 3-2 lead and when Bond, on a run of 60 himself in the sixth frame. missed the last red, using the rest, Hicks moved two ahead with three to play by fashion-ing a composed clearance to

black of 32. Unforced errors, resulting from his eagerness to cross the winning line, then began to creep into Hicks's game, and Bond drew level at 4-4. He then produced an excellent clearance of the last two reds to blue with a place in the last ló against Drago at stake.

Bond, who has no intention of withdrawing from the event even though his wife, Karen, is expecting their second child on Friday, is clearly determined to join a select group of players who have won one of the circuit's leading tournaments in successive years.

"It will take an awful lot to prise the trophy out of my hands and that kind of fightback gives you great heart. Andy missed a few chances and I'm proud with how calm I kept myself under pressure." Geoff Foulds, who succeed-

ed John Spencer as chairman of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association in December, yesterday resigned from the post. Foulds, who lost a vote of confidence at an extraordinary general meeting in Bristol last month, will remain a director until a resolution to remove him is considered in Birmingham on April II.

IN BRIEF

Players are charged after video viewing

TWO Leeds Rhinos players have been referred to a diciplinary hearing at the Rugby Football League (RFL) tomorrow to answer unspecified charges arising from the angry clash with Bradford Bulls in the televised Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-final last Saturday.

Barrie McDermott and Terry Newton were referred by the RFL executive committee after studying a video of the match. They will join Brian McDermott, the Bradford for-ward, who was sent off for punching three Leeds players. Should a probable suspension exceed five matches. Brian McDermott will miss the final against St Helens at Wembley on 3 May.

Cricket: The prospect of Ire-land's cricketers facing Scotland, either in the semi-finals or the third-place play-off for the ICC Trophy - both options offering the winner a place in the next World Cup looks increasingly likely after their most recent victories in Kuala Lumpur (a Special Correspondent writes).

Replying to Holland's 211 for eight, Ireland reached 91 for three, after 23 overs, when rain intervened, giving them victory thanks to a laster scoring rate. An innings of 59 from George Salmond, the Scotland captain, was the backbone of a hard-fought 167 all out, lain Beven, the off spinner, then took four for 23 as Scotland dismissed Denmark for L22 in the 46th over. Football: Sa Pinto. the Sporting Lisbon striker, was suspended from selection for the national team yesterday for hitting the Portugal coach, Artur Jorge, last week. The Portuguese federation said the suspension would be "for a period to be determined immediately after the conclusion of an inquiry".

Skiing: John Moulder-Brown completed his full set of British junior championship titles yesterday with the addition of the men's super-giant slalom title on the final day of the British Land national junior championships in

Cricket: Leicestershire announced a reduced profit for last season, desnite wi the county championship for the first time in 21 years. The club made £22,000, compared with just over £37,000 in 1995. The main reason for the drop was a rise of £171.000 in playing expenses.

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DRAW: Semi-finals: Swansse v Ebbw Vale (Cardiff, April 12); Lianelli v Cardiff (Swan-sea, April 13) FOR THE RECORD

FOOTBALL

European under-21 champi Qualifying group eight

MACEDONIA (0) 0 RELAND 3.750 Kennedy 10. 34 Delap 64 Farrety 73 (at Navadara) OTHER MATCHES: Group seven: Turkey 0 Holland 1 (at Istanbul). Group eight: Lithuante 1 Romania 2 (at Vinturs).

Monday's tate results

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DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Riremier division:
Atherstone 2 Burton Albion 1, Grasley
Rowers 1 Nuncaton 4, Worcester Cay 1
Hallosstander

Rovers 1 Nuneaton 4, Wordesler Caly 1 Halescowen 1

LINIBOND LEAGUE: Premier diffusion: Barnbay Bridge 1 Accompton Stanley 1, Euctor 2 Genesbarough 1. First division: Congleton Town 3 Fioton 2: Mallock Town 0 Worksop Town 4. Netherfield 1 Drovisden 0 ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Bowers United 2 Basildon United 1; Concord Rangers 2: Hulbindge Sports 0; Great Walkering Rovers 2 Southend Manor 1; Stansted 1 Sawtringgeworth 0

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Clacion Town 0

Hawton Inted 2: Great Yamouth Town 1 Weston United 2: Great Yamouth Town 1 Goldsson 0: Lowerstof Town 0 Wrotham 0: March Town Util 0 Wishesh Town 2; Soltam Town Repro Sudbury Wanderss 4; Tiptice Util 2 Haistead Town 1, Woodbridge Town 1; Flostscowe P and T 1

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First

Tiprice Lind 2 Hastead Town 1, woodunger Town 1 Felostowe P and T 1 WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham Town 2 Stade Green; Cray Wanderers 1 Greenwich Borough 3; Crockenhill 1 Lordswood 4. Deel Town 3 Ramsgate 5; Faversham Town 2 Chatharn Town 0; Follestons Invited 1 Hythe Utd 1, Furness 1 Woohldton Town 3, Herne Bay 2 Whitstable Town 2

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: AFC Totton 0 BAT O Aerostructures 1 Essaigh 0; Bournemouth 1 Windome Town 5, Brockenhurst 0 AFC Lymington 1, Downton 1 Benefion Health Horl 2; East Cower Vics 0 Ryde Sports 3; Gosport Borough 2 Portsmouth RN 1, Petersfield Town 0 Thateham Town 3; Romsey Town 1 Christichach 0; Whitchurch United 3 Andower 2.

dover 2.

HELLENIC LEAGUE. Premier division:
HELLENIC LEAGUE. Premier division:
HELLENIC LEAGUE. Premier division:
Joseph O Strotwood Uto 0, Dictor Town 2
Carterton Town 0 Farford Town 2 Kindoury
Rangers 2: Highworth Town 2 Almondsbury
Town 0; Swindon Supermanne 2 Burnham
Town 0 Findsleph 1
Town 0 Findsleph 1
FAMILIES TOWN 1 FACILIES. Premier BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Gornal Athletic Res 1 Lye Town 2.

commune: Gigneral Arhitestic Res 1 Liye Town 2.
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First disvision: Atherton Colhenes 1 Newcestie Town 3, Krisgrove Atheric 1 Traiford 3; Pennish 2 Hobser Old Boys 1. LILESPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEA DHESPORY UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Priemer division: Cogenhoe 3
Northempton Spencer 1. Destorough O
Sewars and Lloyds Corby 1: Eynesbury 5
SI Neots 2: Ford Sports 3 Long Buckty 0:
Holboach O Booton 6: Kempson 3 Wooton 6
2: Neuport Pagnell 0: Wellingborough 2:
Spatising 5 Bourne 0: Stamford 4 Names
Backstone 2: Statisid 0 Pation 1.
URB ET GLESCH CONDITY I EARLIE: First

stackstone 2. Stotlaid 9 Potton 1.
URINET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Burgess Hill Town 6 Hassocks 9. Holitham Town 1 Ringmer 1: Langrey Spons 0 Enstbourne Town 0, Mile Dak 0 Whiteleark 2: Ostwood 1 Thus Bridges 1. Pagham 0 Arundal 0. Peacahaven, and Jelscombe 2 Satitlean Uld 0. Shoreham 3 Southwerk 0 Southack 0
ENDSLEIGH INSURIANCE MIDLAND
COMBRIATION: Premier division: Avechurch 1 Suckey BKL 2 Biston Community
College 9 West Midland Fire Service 1;
Covertry Sprims 0 Massey Ferguson 2;
David Lloyid 2 Weitesbourne 1; Handrehan
Firthers of Southsm: Urd 1, Highgate Uitd 2,
Knog's Heath 5; Kenilworth Town 0 Knowle
3; Marr KA, 0 Worcester Athletico 3,
Richmond Switts 3 Colestyl Town 2 WORLD CUP: Asian zone: Group one: Malaysia 1 Bangladesh 0, Saudi Arabia 6 Talvien 0 (both at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia) SCHOOLS MATCHES: Montalgu tournament: France 3 Holland 0, Third place play-off: England 1 Italy 1 Italy wn 5-4 on pens).

BASKETBALL

CRICKET

KUALA LUMPUR: IOC Trophy: Group E: Scotland 164 (45 3 overs, G Samond 59: P Jensen 4-25): Denmark: 122 (45 4 overs), Scotland to Denmark: 122 (45 4 overs), Scotland to Denmark: by 44 nms: Nerva 303-6 (M Odumbe 148 not out, S Tacio 93): Canada 126-7 (47 overs), Kenya bear Canada on fester scoring rate Group F: Holland 211-8 (P Cantrell 53 not out), Ireland 91-3 (23 overs), Ireland 91-3 (23 overs), Ireland 94-3 (23 overs), Ireland 94-3 (23 overs); Bangladesh 148-3 13-2 overs), A Islam 53 not out), Bangladesh bt Hong Nong by seven workers. Pleas competition: West Africa 247-6; Iranal 57 (211 overs) West Africa beat israel by 190 nuns. Umled Arab Emarates 199-8; Umled State: 155 (40.2 overs), United Arab Emerates beat United States by 34 nuns.

ETON FIVES LUDGROVE SCHOOL: Kinnand Cup: Final: E Wass and J Halstead bt R Mason and J Mole 8-12, 12-6, 15-10 15-14

ICE HOCKEY NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL) Pittsburgh 4 Ronda 3, Dallas 3 Edmonton 1

MOTOR RACING DONINGTON PARIC Auto Trader RAC touring car chempsonship: First round [18 laps, 45 miles]: 1, A Meriu (Switz, Reneult Laguna) (29mm 36 779ec [91/2amh]); 2, J Piato (GB, Renault Laguna) at 3 142 sec; 3 K Buri (GB, Volos 340) 24 241; 4, D Leslie (GB, Ninsan Primera) 24 520 5, J Bintottie (GB, Ninsan Primera) 24 520 5, J Bintottie (GB, Ninsan Primera) 24 520 5, J Bintottie (GB, 140 44) 20.541; 6, F Radesch (MZ, Fort Mondon) 35 674 Fastest lap; Menu 137 084 (92 70mph, 12 R Rydell (Swe, Volvo S40) 2 365 3, F Biela (Ger, Audi A4) 4298 4, G Taquani (IL, Honds Accordt 5507, 5, Bintotite 11 689, 6, J Thompson (GB, Honds Accordt 14 447 Championship positions Drivers, 1, Menu

Chempionship positions: Drivers, 1, Menu 30pts: 2, Pleto 14, equal 3, Burt, Britchile Tarquini and Rydell 12 Manufacturers: Renault 30; 2, Volvo 24; 3, Audi 18, equal-Nessan and Honda 13

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL Nick-off 7:30 unless stated World Cup Ешгореал qu (at Celtic Park, Glasgow, 8 0) Group eight Macedonla v Ireland

(at Skopje, 40) Group nine Ukrama v Morthern Ireland (at Yuev. 4.0) Nationwide League Second division

Milwall v York (7 45) . Vauxhall Conference Southport v kettering (7.45) UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Sishop Auckland v Bamber Bridge, Gains-borough v Budon; Winslord v Runcom ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bromley v Degenham and Recordige (7 45), Yeading y Boreham Wood

Degenham and Rectorage (7 4s), 1eacung v Boreham Wood UniBOND LEAGUE: First division: Alberton United Vibration President of the Challenge Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Column Bay (f) v Boston United (f) President's Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Column Bay (f) v Roston United (f) President's Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Daylin Spentans (f) v Raddittle (f) AVON BISURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bristol City v Charlion (al Clevedon v Boumernouth (al Plough Lane, 2.0).
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Blackburn v Sloke (al Ewood Park, 70). Botton v Eventon (70); Leeds v Derby (al Hailtex Town FC, 70), Manchester United v Colombin (at Bury FC, 70) First division: Aston villa v Sunderland (at Waisali FC, 7.0). Blackpool v Lecaster (7 0); Coventry v Wesa Brotrivich (al Numeron Borough FC, 7.0). Second division. Burnley v Rottherton (7.15); Carliste v Girmsby (7.0), Strewschury v Bernstey (7 0), Stockpoor v Marscheldt (7.15); Carliele v Grimsby (7.0); Strewsbury v Barnsley (7.0); Stockport v Mansheld (6.45); Wiewham: v Menchester Cry (7.0); Third division: Chester v Walsalf (7.0); Chesterield v Bury (7.0); Darlington v Scarborough (7.0); Lincoln v Wigan (7.0); Scurihorpe v Dencaster (7.0); Manstronali Early Victor (7.0).

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First

division: Sheppey v Chaiham GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: League Cup: Semi-linal, second leg: Barry (1) v

Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Barry (1/ 5) Ton Pentre (3) MINITERVA SOUTH MIDLANOS LEAGUE:

Premier division: Bedlord v Letchworth; Toddington v Buckungham Afrietic London Colney v Weehym Garden SCREWFDX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Endsleigh v Carterton: Lambourn Sports v Almondsbury

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE Premier division: Wroman v Bury Town.

(MUET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Oakwood v Peecahaven and Talscombe, Wick v Horsham TMCA.

NORTHERIN COUNTES EAST LEAGUE; Premier division: Sheffield v Huckhall.

Town
SCHOOLS MATCHES: Isle of Wight
Festival: East Comzail v Huntingdon: Buty
v Derby Leeds v Newham, Kingston Upon
Hull v Gospon and Fareham, Esshop
Auckland v Peterborough Gravesham v
Hevani, Plymoun v Camburdge United,
Welfingborough v Lowestort and North
Sutjob. Doncaster v Vale O; White Horse
Wiral v A N Other, Buckborn v Reading,
se O! Wight v Rotherham: Bindywater v
Menchester, Luton v Wakefield, Bradford v
Yoovit; East Berkshire v Sheffield

RUGBY UNION Courage Clubs Championship First division Lexcester v Wasps (7 45) Sale v Bath (7 15) . Third division Rosslyn Park v Reading (7.30) .

First division Ebbw Vale v Llanelii (7 0) Bndgend v Swansea (7 0) RUGBY LEAGUE ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP SI Helens Hull Pingsion Rovers, Wigan v Leods

Welsh League

OTHER SPORT BASKETBALL: Budweiser League Thames valley v London (8.0), Mancheste v Shelheld (7.0) SNOOKER: British Open (st. Phirrouth Pavilions) Pavilons)
SPEEDWAY: Speedway Star Cup: Poiles:
Varg's Lynn (7:30): Premier League Knock
Out Cup: Hull v Berwick (7:36): Long Eaton
v Oxford (7:45):
SQUASH: British Open (a) Cardini **REAL TENNIS**

MELBOURNE: Women's world champ-ionship: Serm-finals: P Lumley (GB) bi F Deuchar (Ausi 6-1, 6-1; S Haswell (GB) bi C Commails: (GB) 6-5 6-5 Final: Lumley bi Haswell 6-4, 6-1

SAILING

BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE: Fourth leg IS direv to Cape Town Positions at 13 50GMT vesterday, with miles to Cape Town; 1 Group 4 1.374 2, Toshiba Wave Warnor 1.392, 3, Content 1.400 4, Commercial Union 1.458, 5, Save The Children 1.528, 6, Microria 1.534, 7, Global Tearmork, 1.557, 8, 30cm 1,645, 9, Time 8 Tide 1.717, 10, Ocean Rover 1.723, 11, Nuclear Electing 1.798, 12, Courtailds International 1.899, 13, Pause To Remember 1.534, 14 Health Insured II, 1.560

TIGNES: British Land Jumor national championships: Statom: Men: 1. J. Moulde-Brown (London/Gel Men: 8 Februari 180 S8-se., 18 96). Imm 39 54-se., 2. J. Heyes (Pendio/England Alpme Team) (55 65, 53 70) 147 35, 3 G. Trayner (Ladybank/KPMG Scottish Team) (55 5, 50 9) 1.47 53, 4. N. Bader (Auemora/k-PMG Scottish Team) (55 99, 24 2) 1.38 41 Women: 1, E. Bioche (Rottingbank-Endland Alpme Team) (38 53, 37 56) 1.16 (9). A Pine (Alperdisen/PMG Scottish Team) (47 15, 37 43) 1.19 59, 3, E. Pailen (Nottingban/England Alpme Team) (42 15, 37 43) 1.19 59, 3, E. Pailen (Nottingban/England Alpme Team) (42 15, 32 37, 43, 37, 48). Paiken (Nottingham/England Alpine (43.15, 39.22) 1:22.37; 4, \$ \ (Cernouslie) (44.17, 39.39) 1.23.75

PLYMOUTH: British Open: Second round: A Drago (Malla) bi / McCulloch (Eng. 5-0, P Sweeny (Eng.) bi G Geome (Eng.) 5-2. M Judys (tiet bi Walker (Eng.) 5-4 P McFhilips (Scot) bi J Ferguson (Eng.) 5-2, A Hamitton (Eng.) bi A Robipbux (Can) 5-1. N Bond (Eng.) bi A Hiols: (Eng.) 5-4

SNOOKER

SQUASH

CARDIFF Leekas British Open: First Men: J Borretar (Fi) bt C Wapnick (SA) (6-15, 15-12, 15-5 15-10, 15-5 16-2) Nt Chalones (GB) 15-10, 15-5 15-2 Nt Chalones (GB) 15-10, 15-5 15-7 Nt Chalones (GB) 15-18 16-10, 15-7 15-6 15-9 J Khan (Paki bt D Ryan (Ile) 15-7 15-6 15-9 J Khan (Paki bt D Ryan (Ile) 15-7 15-6 15-9 J Khan (Paki bt D Ryan (Ile) 15-7 15-6 15-9 J Finespo (Aust) bt P Gregory (Gn 15-12, 15-11, 15-7; C Walber (GB) who M Heath (Scot) str. D Evens (Wales) bt J Nooile (GB) 15-4, 15-7, 15-3 Women: S Worth (GB) bt J Valunson (Holl) 9-5, 9-0, 9-2, S Homer (GB) bt N Toppeti (Aust) 9-7, L Chamma (GB) bt C Verter (SA) 9-0, 9-7; L Chamma (GB) bt C Verter (SA) 9-0, 9-7; L Chamma (GB) bt C Verter (SA) 9-0, 9-7; L Chamma (GB) bt C Verter (SA) 9-0, 9-7; L Chamma (GB) bt C Verter (SA) 9-0, 9-7; L Chamma (GB) bt C Verter (SA) 9-0, 9-7; L Chamma (GB) bt C Verter (SA) 9-0, 9-7; L Chamma (GB) bt C Verter (SA) 9-0, 9-7; L Chamma (GB) bt C Verter (SA) 9-0, 9-1, 9-1; F Geaves (GB) bt N Tippeti (Aust) 9-2, 9-9, 9-6, 9-3; J Martin (GB) bt S Brind (GB) 9-2, 7-9, 9-3, 9-7, R Gricham (Aust) bt T Malik (Wales) 9-7, 9-2, 9-10, 3-9, 9-3

TENNIS

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, South Carolina HILTON HEAD ISLAND, South Carolina: Women's tournament: First round: (Majok (Croatea) b) F. Simpson (Car) 4-6, 6-4, 6-4. A Fuse (Fr) b) K. Habsudova (Stovalva) 7-6, 6-3, A Coetze (SA) b) H. Magyova (Stovalva) 7-6, 6-3, B. Schultz-McCariny (Holl) b) F. Mekarova (Russ) 3-6, 7-6, 6-4, S. Farna (II) b) F. Likhonyseva (Russ) 1-6, 6-3, 6-4, M. Malceva (Bull) b) P. Langrova (Cz) 7-5, 6-4; B. Schell (Auchus) b) J. Kruger (SA) 4-6, 6-0, 6-0, B. Rimen (Gent) d) P. Pandron (II) 4-1, 4-6, 7-5, A. Sugwarma (Japan) b) 4. Grossmon 9 Bramer (Ger) bi G Pezchan (II) 6-1, 4-6, 7-5. A Sugwama Lilapun) bi A Grossman (US) 1-6. 6-2, 6-3; P Statez (Arg) bi I Gomocharogui (Arg) 7-8, 6-2; S Pritows (Fr) or Fushar (Arg) 6-6, 7-5; A Gassi (Calibratical Arg) 6-6, 6-7, 5-6, A Gassi (Calibratical Arg) 6-6, 6-7, 5-6, 6-8 argans (arganism of Arg) 6-6, C Tomens Valero (Sp) bi F Peneru (II) 3-6, 7-5, 6-1 ret; O Barrapars (arganism of Arganism (Arganism of Arganism of A SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

minutes.

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Peter Crouch and Steve Lodge were in the team that came second in the trials for the England team for this year's home internationals, the Macallan Camrose Trophy. They would have gone one better if Crouch had got this hand right.

Dealer North Love all **+984** YQ 103 **₽**K875 N **♠QJ10762 7AJ9862** ₹5 +074 **+ 10 3** . s **♣**3104 4932 **♦** K 5 ¥K74 +AJ865 **⊕AQ6**

2 H (1) Ali Pass 2 NT (2) Contract: Three No-trumps by South Lead: queen of spa (1) Weak 6-9 points

(2) Balanced, 15-17 points East won the first spade with the ace and returned a spade. How should declarer play the diamonds?

The percentage play, without any opposition bidding, is to cross to the king of diamonds and finesse the jack on the way back. That is what Crouch did; he went three down when West turned up with the queen.

There were indications from the bidding that West had the queen of diamonds. East was yr. corresp., reckoned a conservative bidder by the younger set in their politer moments. I would not have opened a weak two on a jackhigh suit. Hence, if in addition

to the ace of spades I had already turned up with, I had the ace of hearts and the queen of diamonds, my hand would have been too strong for a weak two.

Thus I think Crouch should play West for the queen of diamonds. To keep West out of the lead he should run the jack of diamonds at trick three. Even if that results in losing a diamond trick to East, declarer can still bring home the contract if East has only two spades - declarer can set up his ninth trick in hearts without letting West in.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

FABRILE

 a. Like a broad bean b. Crafty c. Fevered

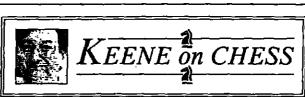
GREUND a. A gerundive b. Under ground c. A greyhound

FINDAL

a. Treasure-trove b. Part of a sundial c. A violinist's neck-pad GRALLOCH

a. A mountain loch b. A Highland drinking-bowl c. To disembowel

Answers on page 44



10 0.0

14 Kh2 15 Nh4

Nvc4

Pxh6

Black resigns

By RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

UK v France

Today, stimulated by the recent success of Etienne Bacrot in becoming the world's youngest grandmaster ever, I continue my series on chess in France, in particular the days when Britain and France wrestled for chess mastery. During the 1840s the French master St Amant and the top British expert, Howard Staunton, fought out two matches, first in London then in Paris. St Amant won a short contest in London and French patriots hailed this as revenge for Waterloo. Nevertheless, shortly thereafter, Staunton travelled to Paris and won decisively in an extended match against his French ri-val. This latter competition

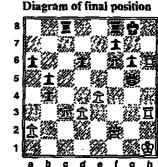
world championship matches. Whilst celebrating the exploits of French chess, though. t seems more appropriate to give one of St Amant's wins. In the following game St Amant, unlike his predecessor De La Bourdonnais, a devotee of the slow build-up rather than the slashing attack, masses his forces on the kingside and eventually penetrates Staun-ton's position via the h-file.

may be seen as the forerunner

for the format of modern

White: Saint Amant Black: Staunton London (match), 1843 Gujoco Piano

2 Nf3



□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

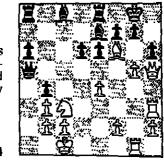
WINNING MOVE .

By Raymond Keene

Nc6

White to play. This position is from the game Ikonnikov -Kalin, Russia 1997. How did White bulldoze his way through on the kingside?

Solution on page 44



men try

to climb

fundamental one.

Premiership, with help from the Nationwide League, expect

to emerge from a group con-taining the likes of Germany, Portugal and Ukraine? Espe-

cially when, at any given time, Hamilton has only about 15 fit

and able players from which

Yet, victory in Kiev this evening would allow them to

go equal on points at the top in

the qualifying table and enter-tain realistic hopes of reaching

the finals in France next

summer. Such a result is

unlikely, of course, but one

should remember the performance in Germany - where

Northern Ireland earned a

call upon a rag-bag bunch of journeymen this evening,

drawn from clubs such as

Blackpool, Stoke City and

Manchester City. But the spirit generated within the

squad is something special and the manager believes that

his side can yet triumph.
"We have a wonderful sense

of spirit and adventure within this squad," he said. "When

you look at our group, it is so

daunting because there is so

much quality in there; but we

have achieved an awful lot

already and we are getting better with each game that

comes. If we show the same

determination, the same men-

tality as we produced against Portugal last Saturday [0-0 in

However, Ukraine did once

provide the backbone for impressive USSR teams; now

they can call on players of

genuine quality, drawn princi-

pally from Dynamo Kiev, to

represent new-found freedom.

Sergei Rebrov and Viktor

Leonenko, in particular, have

built themselves a formidable

reputation in European com-

petition in recent years, and

Hamilton is under no illusions

as to the size of the task

ed team, because they have

genuine strength and quality," he said. "They beat Portugal at

home and their record in the

group is the best so far, so we

know that we have a real job

on our hands. I would class

them as favourites to qualify

They are a vastly underrat-

Belfastj, then we can win.

quite momentous draw. Hamilton will once again

FOOTBALL

Brown puts tight rein on bravado

By Kevin McCarra

BRAVADO is outlawed and arose when a midfield player references to the Braveheart brand of nationalism are likely to be made only in jest, yet the Scotland players feel a rising sense of adventure. At Celtic Park this evening, for the World Cup qualifying match with Austria, they will hope to share that mood with a crowd of more than 40,000.

There was a similar attendance when Sweden were defeated at Ibrox in November and Craig Brown's side is not too far away from being an object of admiration. A lack of panache may disappoint the romantics, but most football supporters succumb, in the

In that regard, Scotland are seductive; victory tonight will give them a seven-point lead in group four. While Austria



and Sweden have matches in hand, Brown knows that he is closing in on achievement. "We would be in a good position," he said.

In general, though, his thoughts are fixed on the job at hand. Even Estonia, defeated 2-0 at Rugby Park on Saturday, were treated with the strategic care one might have expected to see devoted only to truly powerful oppo-

Brown's explanation for the presence of Torn Boyd on the right, an unusual position. when he scored the first goal, revealed the principles of restraint that underlie his management. The Celtic defender had been there only because it was his job to fill any gap that supported the attack. As usual, the defusing of the opposition-will be a significant part of Brown's planning for victory. Yester-

midfield line up.

It may well be done to accommodate Paul Lambert, of Borussia Dortmund, who is suited to a holding role in front of the defence, where he could expect to encounter Andreas Herzog, Austria's best player.
"I want to be positive," Brown said, in a characteristic statement, "but they are tremen-

day he was musing over the

possibilty of altering his

dous on the break. Austria, who have already won their match in Sweden, may make the manager even more pensive than usual. Brown recalled that it was in Vienna that John McGinlay scored on his debut for Scotland, but he also suspects that the mobility of Kevin Gallacher and Darren Jackson may be more productive against a side that lost 2-0 to Slovenia in a warm-up match a fortnight ago.

Austria have their own calculations to make, trying to work out how they are to score against a defence that has yet to concede a goal in group four. Admiration of that efficiency may also take a practical form this evening, since it is believed that Werder Bremen. who won the Bundesliga in 1993, will be represented and are eager to sign Colin Hendry, the Blackburn Rovers centre half.

Rovers centre half.

SCOTLAND (probable; 3-5-2): J. Laighton Hibernian) — C. Calderwood (Totterham Hotspur), C. Hendry (Blackburn Rovers), T. Boyd (Celtic) — C. Burley (Chelses), P. McStay (Celtic), G. McAllater (Coverby City), J. Collins (AS Monaco), T. McKinfay (Celtic) — D. Jackason (Riseman), K. Gallacher (Blackburn Rovers).

AUSTRIA (3-1-5-1): M. Kontsel (Rapid Vierna) — M. Hertz (Raggiana), W. Felersinger (Bonussis Dorfamurd), A. Pietfer (Austria Merrophis) — P. Schottal (Rapid Vierna) — M. Schoop (Hamburg), A. Herat (Rapid Vierna), A. Polster (Cologna).

An en manage of the constitution of



John Collins, left, is kept in check by Colin Calderwood during training yesterday at Rugby Park, Kilmarnock

Townsend offers to stand down

FROM PETER BALL IN SKOPJE

AFTER the glorious days of Alexander the Great, Macedonia has been on the losing end, conquered by everybody - Romans, Byzantines, Ottomans, Bulgars and Serbs. Today, at least on the football field, Ireland hope to follow

suit when they meet Macedonia in their World Cup qualifying group eight match here.
With Romania, the group leaders, winning here before Christmas and Ireland dropping a home point to Iceland, a win would give the Irish a much-needed boost before their visit to Bucharest at the end of the month. Whether April is going to be the cruellest month for Mick McCarthy, the ireland manager, remains to be seen, but it is certainly going to be decisive for his World Cup hopes.

a the contains the second of the

At first glance, today's task may look straightforward enough for, as well as losing 3-0 at home to Romania in December, Macedonia were ultimately well beaten by the same score in Dublin in October - but, in both cases. the scorelines are deceptive. According to McCarthy, Mac-edonia had been the better team against the Romanians for 40 minutes, until Romania

scored.

In Dublin, too, they had had some impressive moments, as Andy Townsend, the Ireland captain, recalled. When we beat them 3-0, I know, in the end, they didn't offer much, but for an hour the game was a tough one and I'm sure it will be here," he said yesterday. "It may not be as easy as it was in Dublin.

Townsend is taking the task seriously enough to volunteer

could the to the source toward | Solitonell

doubtful with injury, emerged unscathed from a teatime training session in Skopje's City Stadium yesterday. However, McCarthy will wait until this morning before naming his team to ensure that neither has any reaction.

The manager's main concern is that his first-choice forwards, Keith O'Neill and Cascarino, have been nursing injuries and he may be reluctant to start both. If he does select only one, it is likely to be Cascarino, who gave the Mac-edonians an unhappy time in Dublin and who could punish what McCarthy believes is a possible weakness in the air in Macedonia's defence.

(RELAND (probable; 3-5-2): A Kully (Shelifield United)) — D Irwin (Manchesta United), G Breen (Coventry City), S

Kinnear expands on

By Russell Kempson

RECENT years, Joe football has increased almost

to pass on his captain's

armband in the search for

extra encouragement for his

team-mates. "I've been cap-

tain since 1991 and six years is a long time," he said. "I've

loved every minute of it, but I told Mick that if he felt it

could give everyone a lift and work positively, then I would

stand down. I just wanted to give us something extra for

these matches because it's an

important month. We can't

afford to lose." The offer was

Encouragingly, both Steve Staunton and Tony Casca-

turned down.

"Reports like this occur all the time," he said. "My ambition is to do the ten years at Wimbledon. I've done seven years at the club and that's my target. The future is looking good and if we can take one

Vic Jenner, a director at Fratton Park, to leave the board because he was dissatisfied with the way the club was being run under the chairmanship of Terry Venables. the former England coach.

Jenner. 71, who resigned two weeks ago after three years on the board, said: "I was used to certain standards of practice, after a lifetime in business, and I believe those were not being met. I felt I had no alternative but to resign." A club spokesman said yesterday: "We have nothing more to say on the matter."

Alan Buckley, the former manager of West Bromwich Albion, is suing the first division club for compensation. Buckley was dismissed from The Hawthorns in January but has been unable to reach agreement over the amount of money owed to him. His contract was not due

ICE HOCKEY

Short-sighted policy hits British players

Norman de Mesquita looks at the effect sweeping changes have had on the game

watershed in the British game. It featured the launch of the Superleague, a flood of imports and the scrapping of the end-of-season Wembley weekend. The quality of play in the Superleague, particughest in Britain since the 1940s and 1950s, but it has been achieved by adopting a short-sighted policy that has seen the virtual disappearance of British-trained players from the country's top

There has been a worrying escalation in the cost of running a team in the Superleague and all eight nave lost money. While Newcastle, Sheffield and especially Manchester have the sort of earning potential that can allow them to continue in the same vein, smaller rinks such as Basingstoke and Bracknell have found it difficult to compete and are seeing

away by the big-money clubs. The Superleague adminis-tration made mistakes, particularly in regard to discipline, where its hastily-compiled rules did not allow penalties

to be severe enough. The decision to move the dosing stages of the play-offs to Manchester was justified when more than 14,000 turned up for Saturday's final, but many fans were unhappy with the week-long gap be-tween the semi-finals and the final Allowing all eight to qualify for the play-offs led to many meaningless games.

Great Britain's bid to qualify for the Olympic Games in Vagano ended when they failed to beat Switzerland in December. Peter Woods, the coach, said then: "We have to bring in some newer players, look at getting some youth in our programme." Unfortunately the squad for the world championships, in Poland this month, includes 13 players in their thirties and is still dominated by Canadians.

Hamilton's | Everton ask Watson to take care of struggle qualifying for survival

mountain BY DAVID MADDOCK By DAVID MADDOCK

EVERTON will rely on the BRYAN HAMILTON, the renowned determination of Northern Ireland manager. Dave Watson, their veteran has made the point often, but centre half, to deliver the four that does not reduce its validpoints required to stave off ity in assessing his country's relegation from the FA Carpredicament during World Cup qualifying. Group nine is. ling Premiership, before the search for a new manager he says, the "group of death" starts in earnest in the sumand the point he makes is a mer. Watson, 36, was yesterday handed the role of How can a team cobbled caretaker-manager at Goodtogether from the less glamorison Park until the end of the ous end of the FA Carling

season. He will not, however, continue in the role, despite his interest in the post. Peter Johnson, the Everton chair-man, made that clear when announcing the appointment of the defender. He indicated that there would be bigger fish to fry come the close

"It has been spelt out that I will be manager in the short term only, and I don't mind that," Watson said. "I hope to be the new manager come the summer, but I'm under no illusions. I don't expect to stay here for ever. I think they will bring in a much bigger-name

manager."

Bobby Robson, presently guiding Barcelona towards Spanish Cup and European Cup Winners' Cup finals, remains the favourite to fill the position permanently. He is unlikely to survive the "ignominy of finishing second to Real Madrid in the Spanish League, and will probably refuse to take the post of general manager at the Catalan club. He has indicated privately that he wants to continue coaching, and will be prepared to speak to Everton in the summer.

Until then, Watson has been charged with ensuring that his successor has a Premiership club to inherit. Everton are perilously close to the relegation zone and Johnson suggested yesterday that he has more faith in the centre half producing the necessary results than he did in the previous manager, Joe Royle,

who departed last week. "I spent the whole weekend thinking about this and I feel that Dave is well respected in the dressing room, which will stand him in good stead over the next few weeks," he said. "We all know it is backs-to-thewall and we have to get points to survive, and he is the man o do it. i beiteve we

the right way round." Watson will continue to play for Everton, and will be assist ed by Royle's No 2, Willie Donachie. The new caretaker is interested in pursuing a career in management, but not until his playing career at Goodison draws to a natural

"I would like to be a manager in the long term; that is a realistic ambition of mine," he said. "But if a new manager comes in, then I would like to play on under him. I believe that I still have some time left as a player."

☐ Celtic last night insisted that Tommy Burns will be staying as their manager. The statement came after a Glasgow newspaper claimed that Burns had offered his resignation as manager but the chairman, Fergus McCann, reiterated that the future of Burns as manager will be decided at the end of the

Burns was McCann's choice for the manager's job at Celtic when Lou Macari was sacked three years ago, but he has not yet been an offered an extension to his contract, which is nearing completion.

1 phone number. more giant step, maybe we Portsmouth have declined to elaborate on the decision by to expire until 1999.

A FEW years from now, this . season will be seen as a

0345 90 90 90

24 hours.

The Samaritans

Wimbledon empire

Kinnear's standing in English in proportion with the size of girth Though Weight Watchers have yet to enlist the Wimbledon manager for publicity purposes, Tottenham Hotspur, Celtic and Everton. among others, have been tout-

Yesterday. Kinnear sought to distance himself from such speculation. He has a contract at Wimbledon that runs until 1999, when he would complete ten years at the club, and he intends to honour it.

along with Germany. "But we have a very strong record away from home ourselves. We have the commitment, and we have the players to continue this adventure." The Northern Ireland man-

ager will welcome back Michael Hughes and Kevin Horlock from suspension, but loses Ian Nolan, through inju-ry, for a game that they really must win. Should they fail this evening, however, it will not detract from what Hamilton and his side have already

FABRILE

(b) Of or belonging to a craftsman or his craft. From the Latin fabrilis, the adjective from faber an artificer or craftsman. Fabrile glue is carpenter's glue, in Latin fabrile gluten. John Evelyn, Sylva, 1664: "Trees, fitted for Timber and other Fabrile employments." GREUND

(c) Apparently a contracted form of the Middle English grehund a greyhound. "Those spaded bitches appeared to have been

(a) That which is found; treasure-trove. Also an invention. From the ablaut stem of the Old English findan to find. Charter of Edward I to the Cinque Ports, recorded by Hakluyt in his Voyages, 1598: "And that they [Barons] shall have their findals in the sea and in the land."

GRALLOCH (c) To disembowel (properly, a deer). From the Gaelic greatach intestines. "We think no toil or trouble too great to hear the ping of the bullet, and see the deer grailoched at last."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE l Qxh6! gxh6 2 Rxh6 Bxf6 3 gxf6+ Kf8 4 Rh8 checkmate. Black can throw in . Qai + at any point, but this is comfortably met by Nbl.

WORCESTE

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om the FA Ca

SHOULD Tony McCoy, Adrian Maguire and Mark Dwyer entertain a sense of injustice at sitting out the Grand National meeting, which opens at Aintree tomorrow, they will surely concede that no man deserves his place in the weighing room more than thip, be one k Norman Williamson. manae-Injuries in National Hunt The sine some racing are as inevitable as the 3 30 mg 126. fences which cause them. Yet d the role few jockeys have experienced annier in Conthe torment of Williamson,

> The BBC will screen live coverage of tomorrow's re-scheduled Dubai World Cup. which will now have a start time 40 minutes earlier than originally planned. The \$4 million race, washed out on Saturday, will be shown on BBC2 at 4.35pm.

who returns from hand and

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

facial wounds at Worcester today. On the line is his fitness to partner the heavily backed Irish contender, Time For A Run, over Aintree's famous fences on Saturday.

"I rode out two lots this morning for Mick Channon and the hand felt pretty good," Williamson said yesterday. "I'm a fraction stiff; otherwise I'm ready to give it a go, I've been doing a lot of running so I'm as fit as I can be without having ridden in a race for two

weeks. Victory aboard the Edward O'Grady-trained chaser would close out a chapter of setbacks to Williamson's career. Hailed as the heir apparent after completing the Champion Hurdle-Gold Cup double two seasons back, the broken leg he sustained 19 months ago initiated a se-

2.00 Beyerd. 2.30 Mischief Star. 3.00 Halkopous. 3.30 Kingdom Of Shades. 4.00 Above The Cut. 4.30 Riding Crop. 5.00 SAMUEL WILDERSPIN (nap). 5.30 Melody Maid.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

(P2,880: 2m) (14)
201 40 FEARLESS HUSSAR 648 C Jackson 7-11-0 P Holley —
202 36 REEN BIO 23 Mrs L Richards 6-11-0 MR Rechards 97
203 080 REVASSINGS 72 J Spearing 5-11-0 D Bridgemater 88
204 0-43 LEAP FROB 19 N Gaselee 6-11-0 W Minston 90
205 094 MORON GPU, 23 M Campoor 7-17-0 J Railbon 87
206 MORONG SW. 3 Survens 7-11-0 T Disscombe (3) —
207 3 REPARAIS 11 P Webber 6-11-0 J Disborne 89
208 NOLIGH DIAMOND M Steroperd 5-11-0 M P Power 19
209 - 005 THE FLYING DOCTOR 15 (V) 6 Baldong 7-11-0 J R Keremagh 65
211 0PD BLUE HAWARA 40 6 Ror 5-10-9 T T Kert 1
211 34 SPRING EARMANA 40 6 Ror 5-10-9 Samie Evans 67
213 34 SPRING EARMANA 91 FO ROR 10-8 Samie Evans 67
213 35 FINITCHEV 33 Miss H Keight 4-10-8 Samie Evans 67
214 MSSCHES STAR 176 H Handerson 4-10-3 M A Fitzgerald 1
215 Revenue 5-1 Traches 6-1 Sorono Campsolou, 9-1 Neen 88d (10-1 others.

3-1 Riparus, 5-1 Trutcher, 6-1 Spring Campalgin, 8-1 Keen Bld, 10-1 others.

(24,3/17. ZIII /1 11/yu) (9)
301 03U1 DOMANG DE PRON 60 (6) Mrs L Taylor 6-11-8. R Beltamy 95
302 -122 HECH LEARLE 19 (5) A Harvey 7-11-8. J A McCardny 99
303 1-26 PANTS BRUTHER 55 (7.5) P Herdogr 9-11-8. M Richards 90
304 9/PD CHARLE SEE 14 R Backler 8-11-2. R Powed 97
305 4-43 DEEP SONG 21 P Protected 7-11-2. R Supplin 60
306 /0-P HALKOPOUS 71 (7.6.5) Mrs V Williams 11-11-2 M Williamson 90
307 /P HAZE WARD 389 7 591 79-11-2. Mrs Amsson 90
308 6PPP LEDBURAN 11 (8) Mrs P Whotle 7-11-2. Goy Lewis (3) 93
309 40/4 SPIN FCHO 32 h Waley-Count 6-11-2. W Marston 82
4 Marston 9-11-2 Mrs All Demonson 10 Penn 8-1 Deep Senn 10-1 others

7-4 Hallepous, 7-2 High Learns, 4-1 Decrease De Pron. 8-1 Deep Song, 10-1 others.

3.30 EVESHAM HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,956: 3m) (12)

3.00 BROMYARD NOVICES CHASE

(£4,577: 2m 7t 110yd) (9)

2.00 ROUNDHEAD SELLING HURDLE

2.30 LEVY BOARD MOVICES HURDLE
(22,880: 2m) (14)
201 40: FEARLESS HUSSAR 648 C Jackson 7-11-0
202 36 MEN 80) 23 Mrs L Richards 6-11-0
203 080 REVASINGO 72: 15 pooring 5-11-0
204 0-15 LEAP FROB 19 N Gasative 6-11-0
204 0-16 MIN MINIOR OPEY 33 M Campage 7-11-0

(£2,049: 2m) (15 rumners)



RACING: IRISH JOCKEY RETURNS FROM INJURY IN READINESS FOR GRAND NATIONAL MEETING

Suny Bay has shortened to 8-1 joint favourite for the Grand National despite a doubt over his participation

quence of injuries that allowed him just one ride in 11 months during which time a rift with Kim Bailey cost him his

Indeed, he was very much in the wilderness until some high-profile winners around Christmas brought him back into fashion. He rode

Commanche Court to victory

in the Triumph Hurdle at Ireland. I'd coped with a man Paul Carberry, another Cheltenham; then followed a nasty fall at Leopardstown 18 days ago, when his wrist along with his Aintree ambitions - appeared fractured beyond repair.

"It has been a real struggle." Williamson admitted, "but my season was getting better all the time until that fall in

5-1 Above The Cut. 6-1 Peler Mignamy, 7-1 King's Cross. 8-1 others

4.30 RESTORATION NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE

801 S2U3 JOMAL MAN 13 (8F.F.S.) R O'Sulfixor 8-11-10 _______ 88
802 F424 SPRING TO GLORY 11 (F.S.) P Hystard 10-11-9 ______ J Culloty 86
803 -253 REINES COP 80 (8F) N Henderson 7-11-4 ____ R Evarraght
804 S221 COURT MASTER 21 (S) R Buster 9-11-4 ____ R Browed 96
805 S339 LOSSTER COTTAGE 35 (f) K Buster 9-11-3 _____ S McNell 84
806 F306 GRIFY 23 6 McCount 7-10-10 ______ Sonie Bischell 84
806 F306 GRIFY 23 6 McCount 7-10-10 ______ Sprine Bischell 84
806 F306 GRIFY 23 6 McCount 7-10-10 ______ P Henley (3) _____

607 PSR0 HANDY BREEZE 34 0 Grissell 6-10-10 ... P Henley (3) — 808 -064 NO FIDDLING 14 (5) 6 McCourt 6-10-9 ... D Bridgingher — 609 PSR9 DANDE MP 11 (5) A Carroll 9-10-8 ... D Writin (5) 610 8022 800TS N ALL 11 G Badring 7-10-7 ... A Doubte 98 611 U-82 ARANCHERC IS 30 Largein 5-10-5 ... J Raible 98 612 PSP5 KINGS SHELLING 21 6 (6,5) H Obser 10-10-5 Jacqui Oliver 89 113 84FF DREES DANCE 27 (5) N Machell 7-10-2 ... B Updan 98 614 5569 STAMP DUTY 1547 N Hendroon 10-10-1 ... M A Fitzgraid — 615 69/P TOP IT ALL 46 (6) P Henrics 9-10-0 ... C Lieuwillyn — 616 PLRS OMECINES 18 67 Mas I Review 8-10-0 ... W Macriston 74 618 2345 WINNOW 14 A Tarrell 7-10-0 ... W Macriston 74 18 Bridging 6-10 PLRS OMECINES 18 67 Ms I Christian 8-10-0 ... W Macriston 74 18 8245 WINNOW 14 A Tarrell 7-10-0 ... C Ros 81 1 Merica 6-10-6 Ms Control Files (1) Merica 7-1 Lieuwing Freder N J M Rechards - 10-0 ... C Ros 81 1 Merica 6-10-6 Ms Control Files (1) Merica 7-1 Lieuwing Freder N J M Rechards - 10-0 ... C Ros 81 1 Merica 6-10-6 Ms Control Files (1) Merica 7-1 Lieuwing Freder N J M Rechards - 10-0 ... C Ros 81 1 Merica 6-10-6 Ms Control Files (1) Merica 7-1 Lieuwing Freder N J M Rechards - 10-0 ... C Ros 81 1 Merica 6-10-6 Ms Control Files (1) Market 7-1 Lieuwing Freder N J M Rechards - 10-0 ... C Ros 81 1 Merica 6-10-0 ... C Ros 81 1 Ms Control Files (1) Market 7-1 Lieuwing Freder N J M Rechards - 10-0 ... C Ros 81 1 Ms Control Files (1) Market 7-1 Lieuwing Freder N J M Rechards - 10-0 ... C Ros 81 1 Ms Control Files (1) Ms Co

5-1 Riving Crop. 6-1 Court Master, 7-1 Latester Cottage, Bools N Ali, 8-1 others.

8 BALLINA 114 J D'Shea 5-11-4 J T Moser (7)
BERTYE BAVARD R J Houghton 5-11-4 Miss E Johnson Houghton
20 DERTIAM SHOT 22 BBT (8 MacCount 6-11-4 D Bridgweiter
25 DAMMENTS CHOICE 11 Miss M Jones 5-11-4 Denti Byrne
BMERALD LAMP 0 D'Nea 6-11-4 V Sablery
HOTEL CASRIQ A Damis 5-11-4 G Torning
0 (CICCORD ORCY 13 C Managet 5-11-4 D Ballagher
DISTAIL C Report 6 -1-1 P Herning CD

5.30 WORCESTER STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL

HUNT FLAT RACE (Div II: £1,399-2m) (22)

THE FLAT RACE (Div II: 21,399 2m) (22)

2 MELDOY MADD 32 (6,D) N Henderson 5-11-6 M A Fizzperald BRUSH WITH FAME P Holts 5-11-4 J Osborne Diversible DOYE N Ballay 6-11-4 M A Fizzperald BRUSH WITH FAME P Holts 5-11-4 A J Osborne DOYE N Ballay 6-11-4 M A Fizzperald BRUSH WITH FAME P Holts 5-11-4 M A Phillips BROAL SPRING N Ballay 6-11-4 M A Phillips BROAL SPRING N Ballay 6-11-4 M A Thornton BROAL SPRING N Ballay 5-11-4 A Thornton BROAL SPRING N Ballay 5-11-4 Deck Byme CAMBRY THOUGHTS M Williamson 5-10-13 W Marston CAMBRY THOUGHTS M Williamson 5-10-13 D J Kavanzah (5) LUCYS RED SUPPER P Jones 5-10-13 Mr L Ballar (7) ROSCI BROH N HORARDS 5-10-13 Mr L Ballar (7) ROSCI BROH H HORARDS 5-10-13 Mr D MPCHART (7) DESERT WAY 25 Mass H Narght 4-10-12 M Becthards LONGSHORE Mrs P Sty 4-10-12 M Becthards LONGSHORE Mrs P Sty 4-10-12 M Becthards DAIR MARS BROAL P ST D D CHARLEY F S J King 4-10-12 S Wymon OLIABMATIC K BEACH 4-10-7 S Burnough OLIABMATIC K BEACH 4-10-7 S Burnough DIABMATIC K BEACH 4-10-7 P Hendry (3) HSY ZOE C James 4-10-7 B Powell BROOK BROKE BROKE BROKE A Charmberton 4-10-7 B Powell BROOK BROKE BROKE

5.00 WORCESTER STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (Div 1: £1,399: 2m) (22)

1 10 SAMUEL WILDERSPIN 21 (6.0) 0 Nicholson 5-11-11

broken leg and an operation after twice dislocating my shoulder. I don't know what I'd have done if I'd broken my wrist. It certainly felt like I'd broken it, although thankfully it turned out to be a bone in my hand."

If Williamson is winning the injury war, his fellow country-

Going: good to firm
2.10 (2m hdle) 1, ERIN'S LAD (J Cullory,
33-1): 2 Kildrummry Castle (F Leahy, 11-2
lav): 3, Fencer's Quest (S Wynne, 25-1).
ALSO RAN 6 O My Love (6th), 8 Country
Minstrel, Dark Phoene, Night Boal (4th),
Worthy Memones (5th), 10 Cyphralis, 11
I'm A Dieamer, 12 Stylish inlerval, 16
Desert Calm, Goll Land, 25 Alpine Mist, 14
ran, 10, 11, nk, 12, 8, R Dickin at Newent,
Tote: C12560, 217, 10, 21,50, 28,70 DF
1228,00, Tho: 2255,40 (part won; pool of
1279,89 camied binward to 4,30 at
Worcester today), CSF; C171,53 Tricast:
23,176,99, Apôchou (9-1) withdrawn, not
under ord-eps — rule 4 applies to all bets,
under ord-eps — rule 4 applies to all bets,

under orders — rule 4 applies to all bets, deduction 10p in pound.

2.40 (2m 7l ch) 1, IDIOTIC (Mr C Vigors, 4-1); 2, My Nominee (Mr R Burton, 5-4 lav); 3, Pro Bono (Mr A Sansome, 9-1).

fav); 3, Pro Bonco (Mr A Sansorme, 9-11. ALSO RAN; 9-2 Frank Be Lucky (pu), 9 Double Collect (uii, 12 King Of Shadows (4th), 25 Babil (pu), 40 Rising Sap (pu), 66 (domain: (pu) 9 ran. Nk, 17i, dist. P Chamings at Basingstolie, Tote 25.50; 22 00, 21 10, 22 10, DF, 24 70, Trio 28.20, CSF 29 15

CSF CS 15
3.10 (2m 4t 110yd hole) 1. POLO PONY (J Supple, 20-1). 2. Edward Seymour (T Jenks. 5-2 tay); 3. Oulet Moments (W McFarland, 8-1) ALSO RAN: 6 Captain Navar (pu). Seltis. 7 Crazy Horse Dancer (2th), 8 Cakbury, 11 Sheedey (3th), 12 White Willow, 14 Bluniswood Hall, Wortsmith (pu), 25 Admisel's Guest, 50 Bries (4th) 13 ran NR: Grace Card. 1 kl, 1%, kl, 3l, kl, J Upson at Adstone. Toter (26 50, 55.80, 51.50, 62.40 DF 649.40 Thor £262.00 CSF, £70.31 Theast. £432.67 Bought in 3,600gms 3.40 (2m 4t ch) 1. PLUNDER BAY (M A Fizgerald, 5-2), 2. Callisone Bay (J Osbome 13-8 (Hav), 3 ran Nk, dist N Henderson at Lambourn Toter £3.70 DF £1.90, CSF, £76 4.10 (2m hdle) 1. SERIOUS (S. McNelli,

Uttoxeter

Going: good to firm

whose medical book has become familiar to racecourse doctors, may be not so fortunate.

Carberry was expected to join Williamson in the saddle at Worcester today. Instead he is to receive further attention to a damaged knee. His Grand National place aboard

11-8 lavl; 3, Glamangitz (Mr R Thornton, 9-2). ALSO RAN: 14 Rare Occurance (4th), 16 Santeray (5th), 20 Total Asset (6th), 6 ran. 2-9, 8, 14, 7, 12 S Brokeshaw a Uffington Total C2-40, £1-40, £1-50 DF. £1, 70. CSF- £4-88.
5.10 (2m hdle) 1, KING OF SPARTA (D Bridgwater, 5-1); 2, Vaditawys (C Maude, 11-8 lavl), 3, Sicanian (Darek Byme, 25-1); ALSO RAN: 3 Lebumum Gold (4th), 6 Suvalu, 11 Frano, 50 Alpha Leather (5th), 11 Only (8th), knock Star, Polar Wind, 100 Jasons Farm, 11 ran NR Kaladhos, 114, 13-1, 41, 61, 91 O Sharwood at Upper Lambourn. Totar: £5.60, £1.60, £1.40, £4.40. DF: £5.50. Tino £79.30, CSF-£11,45. After an objection by the second to the winner, result stood Jackpot: £50,838.90 (0.30 winning tick-

Jackpot: £50,838.90 (0.30 winning tickets: pool of £50,122,95 carried forwar to Worcester today).
Pleospot: £93,50.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: DANDIE IMP (4.30 Worcester)

Next best: Barton Scamp

(4.00 Worcester)

Gorng: good to firm 2.20 (2m 4t 110yd hdfe) 1, Major Harris (R Garritty, 11-2); 2, The Road Wast (20-1), 3, Southern Cross (7-2) Sprizer 100-30 lav 11 ran Sh hd, 31 M Harrimond, Tote 25-70;

21 60, 95 30, C1 50, DF; C139 30, Tno: C155,60 (part won; pool of £92.07 carned lonward to 4.30 at Worcester today). CSF: £96.92 After a stawards' inquiry, result

Wetherby

winners required for qualification: against that he is a threetime champion jump jockey in his native Australia. Hardening ground at Aintree yesterday — the going was changed to good — caused

> that Suny Bay may be forced out of contention. After attracting support, the grey was made 8-1 joint-favourite by Ladbrokes but his trainer said: "We will be fine if the

ground stays as it is, but I am worried because it is drying

out all the time. We will not decide whether the horse runs until the morning of the race." RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Buckboard Bounce is now in

weak and I don't think it

would be wise to risk it just

vet," Carberry said. "I'm hop-

ing to get some more physic therapy at Aintree. I'd like to

ride out over the course on

Friday morning and see how

There was better news for

the Lo Stregone team after

Graham Bradley declared

himself unharmed by his fall

in the Irish Grand National at

Fairyhouse on Monday. Sister

Stephanie, who refused to race

The victory of Dorans Pride at

Fairyhouse yesterday was tinged with sadness as his

regular partner. Shane Broderick, was in intensive

care in a Dublin hospital after

suffering severe neck injuries

and bruising to the spinal cord in a fall on Monday.

in Ireland, may also take her

Jamie Evans, in demand by

Martin Pipe, has been granted

a special dispensation by the

Jockey Club. Evans falls short

of the minimum 15 British

Charlie Brooks to reiterate

chance at Aintree.

"My knee is still a little

the balance.

the knee reacts.

[\$2.50. DF: £5 10. Trio: £4.50. CSF. £11.28. Tricast: £23.04. 3.50 (3m 5i ch) 1, Misster Trick (R Supple, 16-1); 2. The Windle Hog (8-1); 3. Father Sky (5-4 (-lad.) Ny House 5-4 (-lad.) (0u) 4 nat. 6i, 10l. L Lungo Tota £12.70 DF: £12.80. CSF: £72.74. 4.20 (3m 1i ch) 1, Denim Blue (Miss P Robson, 4-11 lav), 2. Soveregne Match (11-2), 3. Syrus P Turtable (33-1) 5 ran. 3-1, dist. Miss P Robson. Tote: £1.40; £1 10, £3.00 DF: £2.70 CSF: £2.59 4.50 (2m hdle) 1, Desert Fighter (P Noven, 9-4 tax); 2, Anathranch (11-1); 3, Last Try (7-1) 9 ran 3, 81 Mrs. M Reviely, Tote: £3.00; £1.30, £2.60, £2.30 DF: £13.70. Trio: £57.60. CSF: £25.71 Tricast: £141.92. Placepot: £495.20. Quedpot: £69.10.

Placepot: £495.20. Quedpot: £69.10. Southwell

Going: standard
2.00 (Im 6) 1, Sedbergh (P Fredericks, 6-1), 2, Raffles Rooster (6-1 tav); 3, Forzau (14-1), 9 ran. Ni, 8 ulm M Reveley, Tote; 17-20, E1 70, E1 50, E3 50, DF-210.20, Trior F18 60, CSF-E22 89, Tricast: 5219 12
2.30 (2m), Kelemata (N Dey, 9-4), 1-Jay); 2, Top Proze (12-1); 3, Sheldyr (6-4, P-lav), 8 ran. 34, 29), J Glover Tote E2 90; 51-20, 52-30, E1 70, DF, E14 00, CSF-E29 20, 3.00 (1m 31), 1-Happy Rave (J Lowe, 12-1); 2, Monte Cavo (12-1); 3, Eveporate (33-1), Foundamed 5-2 lav, 13 ran. Ni, S, P Cunded, Tote: C15, 50; 52, 20, 64 90, E11 50. DF: F76.60 Tno-not won (pool of 2210 7) cerned forward to 4-30 at Wornester tomorrow). CSF-E114.06 Tricast: 53, 109-39 Formidable Flams (9-1) with-drawn, not under orders — rule 4 applies, deduction of 10p in pound. 330 (5f). Danner (M Deering, 5-2 lav), 2, Chachwell Hall (12-1); 3, Aliano (7-1), 14 ran. Ni, 41. Mrs. V Aconder, Tote: E4 50; 52:10. S3-90, 52-40, DF: E31.00 Tno-£35.50 CSF: 528.75. Tincast: E197 58. 40.00 (6f). 1. Advance Reprior (M Tebbust, 12-1), 2, Julia's Relative (7-4 lev); 3, Malvelle Pouque (4-1), 8 ran. St. 181, Tote: F17-20; 52:90, E1-10, E1-50 (DF: E10.20 Tho E55) CSF: 52-50. CSF-52-50. CSF-52-50. CSF-52-50. CSF-52-50. CSF-52-50. E1-50. CSF-52-50. E1-50. CSF-52-50. E1-50. CSF-52-50. E1-50. E1-50. E1-50. CSF-52-50. E1-50. CSF-52-50. E1-50. E1-50. E1-50. E1-50. CSF-52-50. E1-50. E1-50. E1-50. CSF-52-50. E1-50. E1-50. E1-50. CSF-52-50. E1-50. E1-50. E1-50. CSF-52-50. E1-50. E

Placepot £565.10. Quedpot £35,40.

lev), 2, Altion; 3, Weyward Edward, 5 ran.
SOUTH, SHROPSHIRE (Eyton-On-Severn): Hunt: 1, Tara Boy (R Cambrey, 9-2),
2, Rue de Fort; 3, Utrason V 6 ran.
Men's Open: 1, Floreguide Tech (R Thomas, 8-1), 2, Sourrellacelusphier, 3, Auction, Law, 7 ran. Ladles: 1, Hiram B Birdbath(Mass A Plunkett, 4-1); 2, Nodiomas Difermas, 3, Charlottee Quest 6 ran. Inter: 1, Rocket Radar (T Stephenson, 7-4 law); 2, Mr Pipe Man; 3, Mr Bobbit, 8 ran. Rest. 1, Another Chancer (M Hamis, 8-1); 2, Yukon Gales; 3, Daphri, 11 ran. Open Mich (5-7yo): 1, Musical Vocation (A Crow, 2-1 law); 2, Zodiac Prinos; 3, Arms Dealer, 13 ran. Open Mich: 1, Charlissmediathin (R Button, Events taw); 2, Nobia Angel, 3, Scorpotina, 10 ran.
STAINTONDALE (Charm Park); Hunt: 1,

21 90. CSF £5 78 4.10 (2m hdie) 1. SERIOUS (S McNeil, 14 1)-13v), 2. Tejemo Gold (S Wyme, 17-4 (-14v); 2. Star Rage (D Gallagher, 11-4 (-14v); 3. Star Rage (D Gallagher, 11-4 (-14v); 3. Star Rage (D Gallagher, 11-4 (-14v); 3. Star Rage (D Gallagher, 11-14), 12 M Bureaucrat (4th), 16 Test Match (put 6 ran NR- Darakshari 2), 111, 41 K Balley at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £230, 2m ct. 110, 65 tay); 2. Rebel King (8-1), 3. Regal Romper (15-8), 4 ran, 8, 101. P Morteeth Tote: £22.0. DF £5.90 CSF. £9.50 ESF. £9.

POINT-TO-POINT RESULTS

EAST KENT (Aldington), Rest. 1, Velka (A Hickman, 1-4 Jay); 2, Basher Bill, 3, Valkant Frend 4 ran, Confined: 1, Barn Elms (A Hickman, 1-3 Jay), finished alone 2 ran Ladies: 1, Senous Money (Miss C Ewarl): walked over Men's Open 1, Authorship (T Hills), walked over. Open Midn. 1, Target Time (K Giles); walked over. Hunt 1, Prince Zeus (G Knowles); walked over.

(G Y.nowles); walked over
EGGESFORD (Bishopsleigh): Hunt: 1,
Rasta Man (K Heard, 1-2 lav), 2, Mabby
Jady, 3, Mazies Cholce 5 ran Ladles; 1,
Khattal (Miss J Curnings, 4-6 lav), 2. The
Jurnibler; 3, Celtic Sport 7 ran Confined
1, Flame O'Frens; (Miss J Curnings, 6-4),
2, Gypsy Geny, 3, Frosty Reception, 6
ran Rest 1, Link Copper (R Payne, 6-1),
2, First Design, 3, Swing To The Lett (re)
13 ran Men's Open: 1, Featsome (G
Pentoid, Evens lav), 2, Abbotsharn, 3, Il's
Not My Fault, 7 ran. Open Midn (Div I), 1,
Mendip Son (L. Jetford, 5-4 lav); 2,
Stretchit; 3, Tarka Trail, 12 ran. Open
Midn II 1, Arrogant Lord (L. Jetlond, Evens
tav); 2, Bucks Flaa, 3, The Lighy Duckling
12 ran.

12 car.

ESSEX FARMERS & UNION (Marks Tey) Open Mdn t 1. Amadeus (M Gingell, 4-5 lav); 2. Bachelor-Carrasco, only 2 in 6 ran Open Mdn II 1, Bergholl (A Coe, 4-6 lav), 2, Kilcoumy, 3, Mr Boco 4 ran. Rest 1, Couner's Way (T Moore, 7-1), 2, Give II A Bash; 3, Top OI The Range 7 ran Men's Open: 1, Cardinal Inchelies (S Sporborg, 1-3 lav), 2, Evarch; 3, El Bae 5 ran. Ladles 1, St Gregory (Mrs L Globon, 4-9 lav), 2, Professor Longhair, 3, Nibble, 3 ran. Confined 1, Dance On Sixpence (S March, 3-1), 2, Gypsy King; 3, Malachtte Green, 8 ran Inter 1, Drud's Lodge (C Ward-Thomas, 4-5 lav), 2, Ballydesmond, 3, Smart Pal 4 ran FOLIR BUJRROW (Wadebridge); Huntil 1,

Ballydesmond, 3, Smart Pal. 4 ran
FOUR BURROW (Wadebridge): Huntt, 1,
Balchu, Chance, (J. Young, 1-3 fav), 2,
Surwind; 3, Arbie March, 3 ran, Inter, 1,
Dark, Reliection (C. Heard, 6-4 Jil fav), 2,
Morchard, Milly, 3, Mountain, Master, 6
ran, Men's Open, 1, Big Jim (A. Farrant,
11-8 lav); 2, Gymcrak, Dawn, 3, Harrukkah, 5 ran, Rest, 1, Hopefull Dummer, (N.
Hams, 7-4), 2, Gypsy Luck, 3, Ryme And
frun, 6 ran, Laddes, 1, Try Ir Alone (Miss. L.
Blackford, 5-4), 2, Catter, The Cross, 3,
Northern, Bride, 4, ran, Open, Mdnr. 1,
Bryansbi (Miss. S. Loch, 8-1), 2, Spartans
Ding, 3, Gaysun, 8 ran. Dina 3 Garsun 8 ran.

Dina, 3. Gaysun 8 ran,
MORPETH (Tranwell) Hunt, 1. May Run
(Miss V Jackson, 4-5 tav); 2, Newbrano, 3,
Irrutan, 5 ran, Confined 1, Pablowmore
(R Green, 2-1), 2, Sister Seven; 3. Hollow
Suspicion, 5 ran, Ladles, 1, Wiglown Bay
(Miss N Surting, 7-2), 2, Furiny, Feelings;
3, Tod Law, 3, ran, Men's Open, 1,
Todorag (T Scott, 4-6 tav), 2, Washakie
3, Stague Fort, 7 ran, Rest, 1, Lindon
Run (R Morgen, 5-2), 2, Harden Clien, 3,
Killeaney, Carr, 7, ran, Open, Mdm, 1,
Cookie Boy (Miss H Delahooke, 4-1); 2,

Tropnevad; 3, Whosgotsillyssense, 9
ran. Open Mdn; 1, Pleasedaspunch (C
Storey, 12-1), 2, Shine A Light, 3, The
Carnair Fiver 14 ran.
NORTH COTSWOLD (Padord): Hunt; 1,
Widnite (Miss E Walker, 5-2), 2, Chacer's
Imp; only 2 fin, 3 ran Confined: 1,
Farriactic Fleet (Lullan Pritchard, 4-9 lav);
2, Bumphous Boy, 3, Briarland Springer
3 ran. Ladies: 1, Hearts Are Wild (Miss P
Gundry, 5-4), 2, West Orient; 3, Night
Mond 3, an. Marks; Open: 1, Malhar
Shi Image (Bon), 3, Gus McCrae 4 ran
Mdn 1, Kinlogh Gale (E Williams, 1-2
Isy), 2, Altion; 3, Weyward Edward, 5 ran
Shi Image (Bon), 3, Gus McCrae 4 ran
Mdn 1, Kinlogh Gale (E Williams, 1-2
Isy), 2, Altion; 3, Weyward Edward, 5 ran
Shi Image (Bon), 3, Gus McCrae 4 ran
Mdn 1, Kinlogh Gale (E Williams, 1-2
Isy), 2, Alcotrolic: 3, Origanu, 4 ran, Ladles: 1, Ozzie Jones
Monst Felcon, 6 ran Rest: 1, Dicks
Gabin (D S Jones, 2-1); 2, Mister
McGaskit; 3, Tims Kick, 5 ran, Inter 1,
Wolver's Pet (Ire), Bon, 3, Tims, 1, 1, 1, 2, 1, 2, 1, 2, 1, 2, 1, 2, 1, 3, 1 NORTH COTSWOLD (Padord): Hunt 1.
Wildnite (Miss E Walker, 5-2), 2. Chacer's
Imp; only 2 fin. 3 ran Confined: 1,
Faniastic Pleet (Julian Pritchard, 4-9 law);
2. Bumphous Boy, 3. Bristrand Sponnger
3 ran. Ledies: 1, Hearts Are Wild (Miss P
Gundry, 5-4), 2, West Orient; 3. Night
Wind, 3 ran. Men's Open: 1, Neiher
Gobsons (Julian Pritchard, 4-5 fav), 2.
Vindian, 3. Granwite Gritt 5 ran. Rest, 1,
Royal Exhibition (Miss C Remsey, 3-1); 2.
Colonel Fairtax; 3. Unitudy For Some, 4
ran Open Midn: 1, Riosevalley (K
Whiting, 6-4 fav), 2, Connie Foley, 3,
Matchlessty 6 ran.
OLD BERKSHIRE (Lockinge): Hunt, 1,

ran Open Mdn: 1, Rosevasey IN Whiting, 6-4 lav). 2, Connie Foley: 3, Matchlessly 6 ran.

OLD BERKSHIRE (Lockinge): Hunt 1, Ruckis films S Shoemark: 6-11, 2, Orujo, 3, The Man From Clare. 4 ran. Open Mdn (5-7yo) 1, 1'm The Gaiter (F Brennan, 3-1); 2, Salcantay, 3, Larkross 4 ran. Confined: 1, Pornt de Paix (F Hutsby, Evens lav). 2, Miss Magic; 3, Taurean Tycoon 8 ran Mised Open: 1, What A 7o Do (Miss L Sweeing, 2-5 fav), 2, Macral, 3, Abitmorfun, 3 ran. Rest. 1, Balance (G Maundrell, 4-5 fav), 2, Tany Awhile, 3, Liniake Lightning, 4 ran. Open Mdn. 1, Vitains Briel (R Lawther, Evens lav), 2, Wodehouse; only 2 fin 3 ran. SOUTHDOWN & ERIDGE (Heathfield) Hunt. 1, Glenavey (C Hell, 5-2); 2, Wednesdays Auction, 3, Sure Pride, 5 ran. BFSS Nov Riders: 1, Rarely At Odds (Miss A Sansom, 7-2), 2, Linved; 3, Craphic Designer 5 ran. Mixed Open: 1, Bibbo Beggins (M Gorman, 7-1), 2, American Eyre; 3, Kales Casile, 8 ran. Rest. 1, Polar Ana (Miss S Gladders, 2-5 lav), 2, Dovethill; only 2 fin. 2 ran. Inter. 1, Bellion Dollarbill (M Gorman, 4-5); 2, Sovereign Spray, only 2 fin. 2 ran Open Mdn. 1, And Why Not (J Van Praagh, 7-4 Ji tav), 2, load Ganger; 3, Indiway 7 ran. SOUTH NOTTS (Thorpe Lodge) Hunt. 1, Kemys Commander (G Smitri, 1-2 lav), 2, Gonalston Percy, only 2 fin. 3 ran Inter. 1, Ryders Wels (S Welker, 9-4); 2, Slarwick, Fartap; 3, Calmdhu Misty, 7 ran. Men's Open. 1, Breckanbrough Lad (I Bennett, 25-11), 2, Elder Prince; 3, Easby Roc. 7 ran. Ladder 1, Man. Ot Mystery (Miss F Hatfield, 8-13 fav); 2, Killmor Lad, 3, Sansamar 5 ran. Rest. 1, Flying Quest (S Welker, 4-7 fav), 2, Busking Along; 3, Swinging Song, 5 ran. Open Mdn. 1, Andaluccan Sun. (G Maloney, 16-1), 2, Maltby Son. 3, Educare Me. 15 ran. SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE (Lydistep): Hunt. 1, Royal Oats (O S Jones, Evens Scorpotine. 10 ran.

STAINTONDALE (Cherm Park): Hunt: 1, Pats Cross (J. Byrne, 2-5 lav), 2, Here Comes Charter; only 2 fin. 3 ran Rest. 1, The Codord Don (N. Wilson, 4-6 lav); 2, Joint Account: 3, Douce Eciair. 8 ran Missed Open: 1, Osgathorpe (Mrs. F. Needham, 2-5 lav); 2, Nishkona, 3, No Word, 3 ran Inter. 1, Secret Bay (S. Swers); (in alone. Open Mich. 1, Rese Above It (K. Green, 4-6 fav); 2, Redwood Boy; 3, Markham Lad. 4 ran. Open Mich. (5-6yo) 1, On The Fly (R. Echwards, 2-1); 2, Hillmilly; 3, Abbey Moss. 12 ran.

TAUNTON VALE. (Knorston Si. Marv): Hillmilly, 3, Abbey Moss. 12 ran
TAUNTON VALE (Kingston Si Mary)
Hunt 1, Royal Turn (A Honeybal, 1-4
tavl; 2, Master Decoy, only 2 fin. 2 rant.
Confined: 1, Parditino (Miss V Nicholas,
9-2); 2 Earl Boon, 3, Elle Flavador. 7 ran.
Men'a Open: 1, Bindge Express (N
Mitchell, 2-1 Jr. tavl), 2, Hensue; only 2 fin
4 ran, Ladies: 1, On His Own (Miss W
Southcombe, 2-1), 2, Rapid Rascali, 3, Be
My Habitat, 6 ran. Riest. 1, Tangle Kelly (S
Stade, 6-4), fin alone, 3 ran Open Mon! My ristinate and material results in a service in a servi

(an. ViNE & CRAVEN (Hackwood Park): Hunt: 1, Espy (A James, 1-5 fav); fin atone 2 ran. BFSS (Nov Riders): 1, Pojavi (Miss L Whtaker, 9-1): 2, Mögriny Felcon, 3, Skinnhili, 6 ran Mised Open 1, Panda Shendy (Miss A Goschen, 1-2 fav); 2, Namuro; 3, Paco's Boy, 4 ran. Open Midn: 1, Colors Of Guidel (P York, 5-2 Lt Iav); 2, Muskerry Moya; only 2 fin. 7 ran Comfined: 1, Hearthview (M Portman, 11-4), 2, Orphan Oliy; only 2 fin. 4 ran. Rest. 1, July Schoon (C Vigors, 5-2 Iav), 2, Rayman, 3, Palaman 6 ran.

HAMILTON PARK

2.10 Mister Bankes 2.40 Why O Six 3.10 Calder King

THUNDERER 3.40 Murron Wallace 4.10 Menful 4.40 Here Comes Herbie

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.40 HERE COMES HERBIE.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 6000 TBMES 74 (CD,BF.F.G.S) (Mrs. D Robinson) 9 Hall 9-10-0 _ B West (4) 68

eon (F.— Sim, good to firm, hard. 6.— good. 5.— soft, good in soft, heavy). Owner to banded. Featurer Ago and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Provide Handicapper's rating.

SIS

GOING: SOFT DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBNERS BEST

2.10 JIMMY CRAIG MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (2-Y-0: £2,853: 51 4yd) (4 runners)

MAMMA'S BDY (G Tirtboch) J Bery B-8.

2 MSTER BANGS 13 (7 Lightbours) W G M Turner 8-7

5 ORIEL SIRL 11 (D Malants) P Exerts 8-0

D3 FILEY BRIGG 6 (Dates wire Racing) W Remy 7-13 BETTING: 4.5 Mister Banks, 7-2 Minma's Boy, 5-1 Onel Gal, 8-1 Filey Brigg 1998: MORTHERN SAL 8-11 J Carold (Evens fav.) J Berry 5 ran

FORM FOCUS MAMMA'S BOY (loated Jan 28, cost 10,000gm;)
Second load by Rock City, Itali-Invaluer to Sweet
Withelimina, multiple 77/Im winner, dam Im 27
winner at four years. MISTER BAMKES 1151 2nd of
15 to Buertige Dancer in conditions race at Doncases (51, good to firm) with FILEY BRIGG (3b

Musseburgh (51, good to firm) with FILEY BRIGG (3b

Selection: MISTER BAMKES

2.40 TALKING PAGES HANDICAP (3-Y-0: £2,542: 61 5yd) (7 ninners)

Long handicap: impeh 7-9. BETTING' 9-4 Why O Six 5-2 I'm Still Herr, 6-1 Murray Grey 8-1 Normem Sal, Ruiner Thaich, Impish, 10-1 Miss Front Persona

1996: HOBBS CHOICE 8-12 Date Groson (8-1) G M Moore 13 ran FORM FOCUS

MORTHERIN SAL 61 8th of 11 to Kilcadien Lad in intersery at Redizer (St. firm) WHY O SKK 54 4th of 11 to Stip Canactar in transpay at Redizer (St. good to Sm). This STILL HERE short-head and 51 3rd of 5 to Spannard's Morali in meldon at Muscaburgh (71, good to Sm). MaRRANY GREY about 11 14 fth of 16 st of 16 to Sm) to Spannard's Morali in meldon at Muscaburgh (71, good to Sm). All Refer (Sm) to Spannard's Morali in meldon at Muscaburgh (71, good to Sm). Scientific (MW, St). Selection: TM STILL HERE

3.10 westcars saab trainers challenge launch claiming STAKES (£2.626; 1m, 1f 36vd) (12 runners)

1	(5)	1203-05	HIGH PREMIUM 12 (F,G) (J) Parsons) R Fatery 9-9-13 A Contains			
2	(10)	94-5112	CALDER KING 16 (B.C.F.G.S.) (Laurel Lessure) Mrs. M Reveley 6-9-12 S Copp (5)			
3	(5)	350383	LEF THE LUCKY 116 (D.B.S) (Miss & Dunbury) Miss S Hall 8-9-12. K Darley			
4	(1)	6	HANRY 7 (P Marron) J Goldie 5-9-11 T Williams			
5	(4)	36/036/	SUN MARK 53.1 (Scotnorth Recing) Mrs A Swenback 6-9-8 G Duffield			
6	<i>12</i> 1	-	SAMSTOTRY (J Craig) Miss L Penalt 7-9-7			
7	[3)	460050-	TEN PAST SIX 22.J (F) LJ Kennestey) M Wane 5-9-6 J Carroll	١		
8	ĺΩ	O.	SHIMOOZY 2184 (N Vinnon) J Goldie 8-9-1			
9	(8)	Đ	INCANTRICE 7 (T State of W Storey 4-9-0 J Facing			
10	(9)	530034/	AMANY 18J (L Phillips) D Burchell 5-8-13 S Drowne			
11	(12)		MEN OF WICKENBY (J. Stattery) R McKeller 3-8-11 N Variey			
12	inn	0-0	SEE YOU SOON 30 (G Reed) C Thornton 3-8-6			
ETTINGS: 5-2 Led The Lucky, 3-1 High Premium, 7-2 Calder King, 10-1 Ten Past Sto, 12-1 Amany, 16-1 S both See You Seen, 20-1 others						
	are see you short oil tables					

Mark, 562 You 500K, 20-1 0mb/s. 1996: FRELD OF VISION 6-9-9 J 1	ffegwes (7-2) M Johnston 13 ran				
FORM FOCUS					
INGH PREMIUM about 5341 5th of 23 to Artist Dane is handleap at Dornastes (1m. good to firm). CALDER (ONG 81 2nd of 8 to River Keen in handleap at Southwest (AW, 1m 40) LEF THE LUCKY 100 3rd of 13 to Desert Zone in handleap at Woherhangton (AW), 1m 17 79yd) HANEY about 4341 6th of 13 to Abstone Quesn in seller at	Catanuck (71, good) with INCANTRICE (5th better off) about 74(112th TEN PAST SIX 1114) 5th of 18 to Breat The Roles in Causer at Demossite (17th 25 60yd, good) on pecultimate start. AMANY about 24(14th of 19 to Thunder River in apprentice handlage at Yamouth (71, good) Selection: CALDER KING				
3.40 HAMILTON SELLING STAKES (3-Y-0: £2,220: 1m 65yd) (7 numers)					
1 (7) 45-0 MANUENO 12 (C Barber-Lorman) J Haffrenon 8-11					

BETTING: 7-4 Switz: Coast, 2-1 Miumon Walkaco, 9-2 Rock Istand Line, 10-1 Manilano, Sawat Male, 14-1 Eurobrik Windsong, 20-1 Tycoch Tina.

FORM FOCUS

SWISS COAST 271 8th of 9 to Cyrtan in meliden at Wolverhampton (AW. 1m. 100yd). EUROLUNK (Im. good). TVCOONT TINA 36 10th to Bonne Ville WANDSONG 151 11th of 15 to Pariza in meliden at Goodword (61, good to firm). MURROW WALLACE Selection: MERRON WALLACE

4.10 YELLOW PAGES HANDICAP (£3,899: 1m 3f 16yd) (15 rumners)

Long transferage: Sing And Dance 7-6, Lord Advances 7-6, Halchies Lady 7-1, Rapid Mores 6-9
BETTING: 7-2 Damino Flyer, 4-1 Vericlam, 6-1 Express Gel. 8-1 Moorraking, 10-1 Mantal Breydon, 12-1 Sing And Dance, 18-1 others 1996: CALDER KING 5-9-1 R Lappin (5-1) J Eyre 8 san

FORM FOCUS

VERDIAN beat Grow Forum 11/21 in 10-numer transless at largested (1m 31 106yd, good to sold).

DOMINO FLYER beat SING AND DANCE (20) beat Saudo Tenty 41 in 9-numer apprentice handles at Newcastle (1m 27, good) with SIGA HAWK (6b better oi) 44 th and EFFBDX (6th better oif) 12/21 14th. MAN-FL about 73/4 4th oi 20 to Break the Rules at laddes handlespad of Oncasted (1m 21 60yd, good to 50).

Solection: DOMING FLYER (nap)

4.40 LANARKSHIRE HANDICAP (52,808; 1m 41 17yd) (14 runners)

Long handleap: Jabarroot 7-6
BETTWEE 6-4 Here Cornes Herbw, 5-1 Rossel, 6-1 Passing Strangers, 10-1 Globe Rumer, 12-1 Eurobids, Qualifier Pride, 16-1 olbets. 1998: EUROTWIST 7-9-1 J Fortuna (8-1) S Kettlewell 12 ran

PASSING STRANGERS hand and MI 3rd of 8 to Artifics in handicap at Lingüeld (1m 3l 106yd, good to firm). ELINGÜER RUNNER 171 10th of 15 to bombin Filver in handicap at Southwell (AW, 1m) with CAROL. AGAM (1lb wites of) 7. 11th CAROL. AGAM (1lb wites of) 7. 11th PHLMST 7/1 3rd of 10 to Febsitin in claimer at Movemention (AW, 1m 7) HERE COMES
HERBIE bool Golden Hadeer 211 in 15-navor

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS 8 35 22.9 K Steat 23 119 19.3 J Fortune 36 219 164 K Darley 10 64 15.6 G Duffield 3 27 11.1 J Carroll S Keptowell Mrs M Revoley J Berry C Thomaton J Hatherton

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Hamilton Park: 3.40 Swiss Coast Worcester: 2.00 A Badge Too Far, Just Andy 2.30 The Flying Doctor: 3.00 Ledburan

SPECIALISTS

WORCESTER: Trainers: Miss H Knigta, 12 winners from 44 numers, 27.3%, M Pipe, 33 from 126, 26.2%; C Barwell, 8 from 32, 25.0%; D Nicholson, 20 from 82, 24.4%; K Balley, 24 from 103, 23.3%, Jockeys: J Oslome, 29 winners from 103 rides, 27.2%, J Culley, 5 from 24, 20 8%; N Williamson, 20 from 113, 17.7%; R Massey, 4 from 24, 16.7%, D Bridgwaler, 23 from 147, 15.6%

EXETER: Trainers: M Pipe, 76 winners from 293 runners: Mrs Nerys Dutfield, 5 from 25, 20.0%; P Hobbs, 24 from 128, 18.6%; N Twiston-Devies, 7 from 48, 14.6%; D Nicholson, 4 from 28, 14.3%; Jostewyer, C Maude, 10 winners from 77 ndes, 13.0%; J Frost, 15 from 132, 11.4%, Only qualifiers,

RACELINE |**WORCESTER|102|2**02 EXETER 103 203 120 220 IRISH FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

4.00 COMMANDERY AMATEUR REDERS HANDICAP 501 21/P BALLET ROYAL 23 (C.D.6.5) H Memors 8-12-0 A Charles-Jones (7) — A Melody Maid. 5-1 Fortunes Flight. 6-1 Hack On 8-1 Dance Dove. Brush With POE: Ye

THUNDERER 2.20 Give And Take. 2.50 On My Toes. 3.20 Mozemo. 3.50 Shahrani. 4.20 Bishops Castle. 4.50

MIC

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mist.

All additions of the second

Freezer Francisco

A Hill Co. W. O.

STATE OF STA 2.20 ALL WOOL AXMINSTER 180 JUVENILE MOVICES HURDLE (£2,249: 2m 2f) (3 runners) 1 321 GAVE AND TAKE 25 (C,S) M Pipe 11-4 ______ C Maude 2 60 TRANSLAR 22 0 Gardollo 10-12 _____ D Foot (3) 3 SP22 SULAWESI 14 N Twiston-Cavies: 10-7 Mr J Cadestoin (7)

4-7 Gree And Take, 2-1 Sukaresi, 10-1 Timidjar 2.50 MOORLAND AXMINSTER 100 MARES ONLY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,895; 2m 2f) (8)

3-1 Rose Of Steam 7-2 Quarter Wallz, 5-1 Prove The Point, 6-1 others

3.20 BOYAL SEATON AXMINSTER 100 NOVICES CHASE (£3,630: 2m 3i 110yd) (5)
1 \$253 PRST CLASS 46 (F) G Allord 7-11-2 R Greene



4.20 ROYAL DARTMOUTH AXMINSTER 100 HANDICAP CHASE (£3,799: 2m 2l) (4)

4.50 TAMAR AXMINSTER 100 AMATEUR RIDERS NOVICES HURDLE (£2,831: 2m 3i 110yd) (11)

6-4 Foodes Lad 3-1 Country Lower, 5-1 Real Gree 10-1 others.



1 3-22 POLDEN PRIDE 14 (D.F) & Balding 9-11-10 B Claterd
2 1144 HERBETT BUCHANAN 125 (F.6) P Nachols 7-10-12 R Jehrson
3 1451 BISHOPS CASTLE 26 (CD.F.G.5) R Frest 9-10-1 J Frest
4 54PP MORKS JAY 34 (F.G.) 6 Thomas 8-10-0 C LiZude 4-7 Politien Pride 7-2 Herbert Buchariam 4-1 Bishops Castle, 20-1 Manis Jav

Art of getting away with it

SIMON BARNES

Midweek View

ambridge! No, surely not, the umpire must have lost his head. Caym-brilidge! Cavmbrillindge! He's gone off his chump, he is cheering for the Light Blues, what has happened to impartiality?

Well, that's what it sounded like. It was supposed to be a Dire Warning, but it sounded like partisan cheering. It sounded like that to the innocent bystanders, it must have been the most potent form of encouragement to the Cambridge crew, and it was certainly the most powerful depressant for Oxford.

The Boat Race umpire, Tom Cadoux-Hudson, was warning Kevin Whyman, the Cambridge cox, that he was trespassing into Oxford water. That he was encroaching, that he was putting Oxford off, that he was pushing his luck, that he was balanced on the tightrope of disqualification.

Now, it is a common place of rowing that a racing eight comprises eight disparate individuals united only in their hatred of the cox. But surely even this, the most hallowed of rowing traditions, can be set aside, for Cambridge have their cox to thank for their

The all-powerful combination of their bullying, luck-pushing cox and the cheering, impotent umpire was what did for Oxford. Rules in sport are there to be explored. It is a fact of sporting life, if not the one most regularly celebrated, that the strongest-willed and most ruthless competitors will always seek to explore the furthest reaches of sporting law. No, not to cheat. Merely to get the greatest possible legal advantage. Not to go for the safe ground, to have your sporting existence on the very cusp of legality.



while, in the background, a member of the Oxford crew looks forlorn

This makes logical sense. If what Whyman minor is doing, a bouncer is legal and the batsman is dodgy, then there is no sense in pitching the ball up. Send him down the regulation two bouncers, and then add a third. Not a head-ball, that would be illegal. Give him one in the upper body, a ball on the cusp of legality. Make the umpire look concerned but helpless, make the batsman feel hard-done-by, make the fielding side feel that you are getting away with something. The unholy glee of the stelen advantage surely washed through the Cambridge oarsmen with every umpiring holler. It's not fair, sir! Look

sir! And the umpire, taking a strong line, says, Whyman, er, look here, don't ever do that again, all right? I don't want to have to warn you again.

The official's Warning is one of the most ancient traditions of sport. It is supposed to make the offender think again. But all it does is confirm the offender's immaculate judgment: to spell out, for the joy of his team, for the discomfiture of the opposition, that he is existing comfortably on legal-

When rugby union forwards exchange blows, the referee's inclination is not reprisal but diplomacy. The wagging finger, the lecture. and the very next time this happens you will be sent off, my lad. And the chief offender listens with apparent contrition, but he is glowing inside. and his team glows with him. Joy! We have got away with something, and the bloke that

again, will he? Cricket is full of warnings, but scarcely ever is action taken. Bowlers run down the pitch and bring joy to the hearts of spinners and their captain, and give to all the team the pleasure of getting away with something. And

got thumped won't try that

even if this work of destruction brings little practical advantage, it still upsets the opposition. Someone has pulled a stroke on them, and that hurts. In football, it is the custom

for many players to start the game with a thundering tackle on the man they must mark. one designed to "let him know you are there". And referees tend to play along with that, offering instead of a firstminute booking as a Warning. Thus the defender is able to establish psychological ascendancy by (a) his physical assault and (b) the subtle pleasure of getting away with something.

For the pain of having a stroké pulled on you goes very deep. In a way you can accept being beaten fair and square. But to be niggled, bullied and manoeuvred out of it is a terrible blow, far more damaging for self-esteem. There is no one so utterly helpless as the person to whom it is revealed, for the thousandth time, that not only is life unfair, so also is

The unholy glee of the stolen advantage surely washed through Cambridge'

Nothing causes so much dismay as the belief that your opponent is getting away with something: witness English cricket's hysterical reaction to the Pakistan ball-tampering 'allegations, or Australia's crazed campaign against a Sri Lanka bowler, Muralitharan, who, they believed, was a chucker. This sense of helpless grievance helps to pave the way for Australia's defeat by Sri Lanka in the World Cup final (Muralitharan 10-0-31-1).

These days, the officials take all the responsibility for the laws, the players virtually none. You may not care for this, but that is the way things are in modern professional sport. As a morality, it has at least the virtue of consistency.

But by adhering to the ancient code of Warning, officials hark back to the days when sport was played for fun. These days, the Warning is a potent searce of encourage-ment. It sonfirms that he is exactly where he wishes to be serenely on the cusp of

Ryder Cup captain plagued by

GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN NEW ORLEANS

WHEREVER he is, Severiano Ballesteros appears to be carrying the cares of the world on his shoulders. Whether it is the Canary Islands, as it was two weeks ago, or New Orleans, where he is competing in the Freeport McDermott Classic this week. Europe's captain in the Ryder Cup looks

Ballesteros is doleful about

Ballesteros has made one trip to Germany to consult the German doctor who helped er from his foot problems and received several injections to reduce the pain in his lower back. So far, there has been no improvement and he plans

On the subject of the Ryder Cup and the announcement last week that the selection process for match this year will not be changed, Ballesteros was philosophical The case is now closed. I have to cope with it. There have been enough battles already with everybody. The Ryder Cup is not a war, it is a competition between two con-

If there was a topic of conversation that brought a hint of a smile, it was the form of Olazábal, who is also competing in New Orleans. Since returning from injury, Olazabal has played three tournaments, is 12 under par and finished twelfth, fourth and first. "Lately a lot of guys have been leaving the European tour, so to have lose Maria back and doing well is

TELEVISION CHOICE

And for his next trick...

ITV, 8.00pm

Anthony Horowitz is obviously a fan of H.G. Wells. Crime Traveller, currently on BBCl, draws on elements of The Time Machine while this latest Horowitz script makes more than a nod towards The Invisible Man. It is an undernanding piece of hokum which features Neil Morrissey as an air freight pilot who is sent to prison for smuggling. That he is innocent of the crime is bad enough. Worse follows when he is whisked off to become the guinea pig in a furtive scientific experiment. The upshot is that he becomes invisible, a chance for clever work by the special effects team. The trouble is that he can revert to normality without warning, usually when he is stark naked. Fans of Men Behaving Badly who have wanted to see more of Morrissey now have their chance, many times over.

The Great Garden Game Channel 5, 8.00pm

A new television channel is the cue for a new type of gardening series. Out go middle aged presenters pottering around in greenhouses. In come the bright, keen and far from middle aged Clare Bradley and Paul Hawkins to host a mixture of garden visit and game show. Each week two teams of amateurs compete in a task set by the head gardener. In tonight's programme, from Bowood House in Wiltshire, the challenge is to replace a length of grass path with a gravel path. The time allotted is three hours, though thankfully we get only the edited highlights. Meanwhile Bradley strolls round the estate in the company of its aristocratic owner. The pitch is clearly towards the younger audience, who may not normally tune in to gardening programmes, and traditionalists may still feel more at home with Alan Titchmarsh.

Modern Times: Dirty Work BBC2, 9.00pm

It is the least glamorous of jobs but the most enjoyable of films. Lucy Sandys-Winsch has had the clever idea of collecting people who are all, in their different ways, cleaners. As they are also a shade or two larger than life the result is highly watchable. To garnish the images, Stephen Knight

Tom King as a conscript (BBCl, 9.30om)

has composed a delightful commentary in Betjemanesque blank verse. We open in Newcastle upon Tyne where Howard patrols the streets at night in his cleaning truck, observing the revellers, dodging the drunks and marking the girls out of ten. Jackie, by contrast cleans big houses. She used to be a teacher but finds this less pressurising. The most ghoulish job on view is cleaning out empty council houses before the new tenants arrive. What John, John and Peter have found in these dwellings is probably best left to the programme. But the easily upset are hereby warned.

Army of Innocents

BBC1, 9.30pm National Service was introduced in 1947 when the Cold War was at its height and Britain still had an Empire to defend. When it ended, 13 years later, two million young men had been drafted into the, armed forces. To mark the 50th anniversary, former conscripts including Michael Aspel, Tom King, MP, and the late Willie Rushton, remember their days in uniform. Many of their experiences are richly furny, at least in retrospect. Those bellowing drill sergeants really existed and soldiers did whitewash coal. After basic training, many conscripts were given mindless jobs. But others saw action abroad and the film takes on a content and a soldiers. more sombre tone when it recalls campaigns in Korea, Kenya and Malaya in which hundreds of National Servicemen died.

Peter Waymark

continues to embrace them all. And very expertly it does so too. April 2 1947 saw an extra year being added to the time that children would spend in

school. An innovative farmer in Northamptonshire sowed the seeds for his crops by air when his land

became waterlogged by the heavy rains. And, two years before the Broadway musical South Pacific launched that hit song about a love affair born out

mysterious Spanish count who had laid eyes upon her only once. Across a crowded balloom.

Peter Davalle

- Marie

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RADIO CHOICE

On this Day

Radio 4 (LW), 10.15am

Viewing Essential Radio 4 (FM), 10.00am

The trivial, the noteworthy, the tragic and the comical. Radio 4's daily flashback to 50 years ago The selling and buying of a house is, by general consent, one of an unholy trinity of horrors that can be visited on us. The others are divorce and incurable illness. Heavens knows: we have heard every conceivable variation on the themes of matrimony and mortality. Viewing Essential, narrated by Moraid Devlin, is a trail-blazer — the first comprehensive investigation into the triple whammy that involves house vendors, house buyers — or, more often than not, non-buyers — and of course, estate agents. There is only one satisfied customer in today's episode. Danny has recently moved in to a one-bedroom flat, and all is of a glance across a crowded room, Lady Diana Cooper Duff was left £25,000 in the will of a well with his world. My heart went out to let-down Laura as she sobbed her heart out.

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radditie, includes 7.30 Newsbeat 9.00 Dave Pearce 12.00 to Whiley 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00 Kevin Greening 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Evening Session with Steve Lamsco 8.30 John Peat 10.30 Mary Anna Hobbs 1.00am Claire Sturgess 4.00 Clive Warren

RADIO 2

6.00em Nick Barractough 7.30 Welke Up to Wogen 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thrower 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Jim Lloyd with Folk on Two 8.00 Bollst of the Lough 8.30 The Music of Japan (3/4) 9.00 lp-Dip-Dep 9.30 Nigel Ogden 10.30 The Jamesons 12.05am Charles Nove 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breeklast Programme 9.00 The Magazine 12.00 Mitoday with Mak 2.00pm Ruscoe on Pive The Magazine 12.00 Mitoday with Mair 2.00pm Ruscoe on Pive 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra with Valerie Singleton 7.20 Trevor Brooking's Football Might. Scotland v Austria. Plus news of the rest of to rest of tonight's football action. Including the results of the National Lottery draw 10.00 Brian Hayes's Election Night 12.00 After Hours with Rhod Sharp 2.05am Up All Night with Richard Dailyn

TALK RADIO

5.00aza: Chris Ashtey and Sandy Warr 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lonaine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Deeley 7.00 Moz Dee's Sportszone 10.00 James Whale 1.00em lan Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour. 5.30mm Europe Today 6.30 Europe Today 7.15 Cheri (8/8) 7.30 Discovery 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 Global Shake-Out 9.07 World News 9.15 Andy Karshaw 9.45 Sports Roundup 10.30 One Planet 11.30 Sports International 12.05pm World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Composer of the Month 2.05 Outlook 2.30. Megaritot 3.05 Sports Roundup 3.15 Global Shake-Out 4.15 World Today 4.30 BBC English 4.45 Britain Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Roundup 6.30 Discovery 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Words of Faith 7.30 Multitrack 9.15 Britain Today Outdook 7.29 Words of Patin 7,30 Majorack 3.19 Shadh Today 9,30 Meridan On Screen 10.30 World Today 10.45 Sports Roundup 11,10 Science View 11.15 Country Style 11.30 Mutitrack 12.30am From Our Oth Correspondent 12.45 Britain Today 1.30 Outdook 1.55 Words of Fath 2.30 Assignment 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 Meridian Books 4.30

CLASSIC FM

4.00mm Mark, Griffiths 7.00 Mike Read 10.00 Henry Ketty 1.00pm Lunchilme Concerto. Sarge Koussevitsky (Double Bass Concerto Op 3) 3.00 Nick Beilley 7.00 Classic Newsnight with John Brunning 7.30 Sonata Turina (Gulter Sonata Opus 61) 8.00 Evening Concert. Strauss (Hom Concerto No 2 in E flat); Rachmaninoff (Plano Concerto No 1 in F sharp minor); Elger (Symphony No 1 in A flat) 10.00 Michael Mappin; Includes Nochume 1.00am Lunchtime Concerto (r)

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono 10.00 Graham Dene 1.00pm Jeremy, Clark 4.00 Nicky Home 7.00 Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Randal Lee Rose

8.00em On Alr, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Handel (Water Music Suite); Museorgsky, orch Ravel (Pictures at an Exhibition); C.P.E. Bach (Organ Sonata in A. Wg70 No 1); Croft (Overture In D); Bartok (Piano Concerto No 3) in D); Bartok (Piano Concerto No 3)

9.00 Morning Collection, with Penny Gore. Includes
Haydn (Piano Trio in E fiet, H XV 22); Loewe
(Kleiner Haushalt; Heinnich der Vogler); Schubert
(Impromptus, D899)

10.00 Musical Ecounters, with Stephanie Hughes
Includes Schumann (Drei Fantasiastucke, Op 73);
Martinu (Concerto for double string orchestra,
plano and timpanii); Telemann (Der Mittag, Die
Tagescelten, Part 2); Turna (Circulo); Falla (El
Amor Brujo); Victor Herbert (Celto Concerto No 2
in E minor)

Amor Brujo); Victor Herbert (Cello Concerio No 2 in E minor)

12.00 Composer of the Weelc Amy Beach, with Chris Wines and the blographer Adrienns Fried Block

1.00pm Concert Hall, Live from the Wigmore Hall, London, John Harle, saxophone and John Lenehan, piano. Peter de Rose (Deep Purple); Pilchard Rodney Bennett (Samba; Sondheim Weltzes); Denison (Sonata); Trad (Three Hungarian Folk Songs from Celk); Paul Mottram (Mocasin Trail)

2.00 Mildwesic Choice, with Susan Sharpe Includes Britten (Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge); Satie (Gnossiennes, Set 1); Berlioz (La Mort de Cléopaire)

Caopanes

4.00 Choral Evensong. Live from All Saints Church,
Margaret Street, London. Includes Introit,
Ferguson (Away with gloom, Away with doubt);
Psains 113, 114 (Plainsong); Canticles (Howells
in G); Organ Voluntery (Sarabande for the Moming
of Easter). Director of music Harry Bramma,
organist Nicholas Luff

5.00 Music Machine. Sarah Walker travels to the Isle of Skye to meet John MacLeod of MacLeod, 29th Chief of MacLeod at his home, Durwegen Castle. They talk about the musical traditions there and particularly the pipers of the clan, the

They talk about the musical traditions there and particularly the pipers of the clan, the MacCrimmons

5.15 In Tune, with Jeremy Nicholas. Includes Curzon (March of the Bowmen): Beethoven (Variations and Fugue on an Original Thams. Op 35, Eroica); Tchalkovsky (The Voyevoda)

7.30 Sounding the Century: Tavermer. A new BBC studio recording of Peter Maxwell Davies's opera based on the life of the 16th-century English composer. With tenor Martyn Hill in the title role and a cast including David Wilson-Johnson. bertione, Stephen Filchardson, bass, Fiona Kimm. mezzo, Michael Chance, countertenor, London Voice, Fretwork, His Majesty's Saguetts, New London Children's Choir and the BBC Symphony Orchestra, conductor Oliver Krussen.

9.45 The Sound of Mastic. Sir Peter Hall assesses the ritual nature of masts and Tony Ogogo, a Benin priest, explains why masks need to be heard as well as seen in masking rites (2/4).

10.00 Voices, lain Burnside presents a selection of songs with a selling theme (r).

10.45 Night Waves. As the Heyward Gallery in London opens its exhibition of 3-D work. Material Culture: the Object in British An of the 1980s and 90s. Patrick Wright discusses the insight it offers into the artists' preoccupations and the values of contemporary society.

11.30 Composers of the Week: Mozert (r)
12.30em Jezz Notes. Campbell Burnapo introduces a session from the Dave Lee trio
1.00em Through the Night, with Donald Maclaod

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, includes Thought for the Day 8.40 Racing Pigs and Glant Marrows, by Harry Pearson (3/5) 8.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Michaels, Topical discussion with Times columnist Libby Purves and her guests of the week

the week
10.00 News; Viewing Essential (FM). See Choice
10.00 Delty Service (LW)
10.15 On This Day (LW). See Choice
10.30 Woman's Hour. Wendy Ausin meets the Latin
American jazz pisnist Tanla Meria
11.30 Gardeners' Question Time, with chairman Eric
Robson and panellists Geoffrey Smith, Bob
Elementers of New Collector Smith, Bob

Robson and parellists Geoffrey Smith, Bob
Flowerdew and Nigel Colborn answering
questions in Bridgend (f)
12.00 News; You and Yours. Consumer news and
current effairs with Lestey Briddoch
12.25per Envious Casca. Based on the cornedy thriller
by Georgette Heyer. Starring Jernes Fleet and
Heien Basendale (4/4) 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (f) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; The Hollow Man, by John Dickson Carr.
Dramatised by Peter Ling. With Donald Sinden
and Nigel Devenport (2/2)
2.45 Tressure Islands. The first of a new series of the
programme focusing on children's literature.
Michael Rosen reads the latest in horror fiction
with the author Pete Johnson and Kimberley
Reynolds, director of the National Centre for
Ressarch in Children's Literature

Research in Children's Literature 3.00 News, The Afternoon Shift, Russell Davies talks to two teenagers who had to come to terms with their father revealing his homosexuality

4.00 News 4.05 Kateldoscope. Rolsin McAutey sees Colin Firth in Fever Pitch, the film version of Nick Homby's best-selling book about his file-long obsession with Arsens!

4.65 Short Starts Constituted Little by Poles.

obsession with Arsenal
4.45 Short Story: Grandfather's List, by Peter
Crowther. Read by Tudor Barnes
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 Stx O'Clock News
6.30 Counterpoint. Ned Shortin hosts the linet of the general knowledge music quiz. With Evelyn

Glennie awarding the prizes (f)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 The Coroner: Another look behind the acenes of the West Yorkshire Coroner's office (2/5)

the West Yorkshire Coroner's office (2/6)

8.05 The Werdinobe. A look at the wedding dress through anecdote, archive and music (6/6) (r)

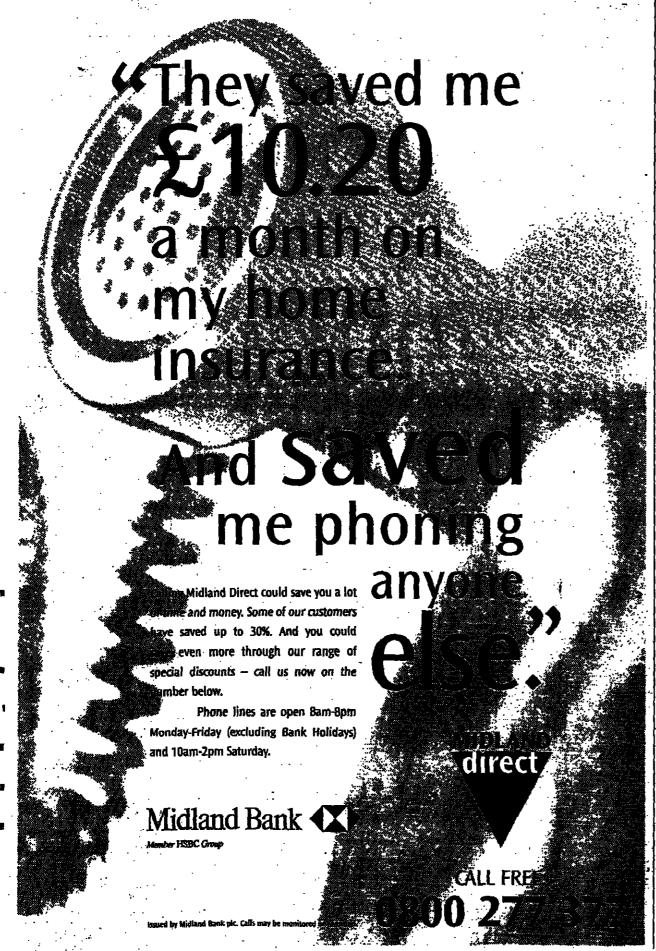
8.15 The People's People. Three generations of a medical family give their opinions on life before and after the National Health Service was created in 1946 (6/6) (r)

9.00 Coating the Earth. A look at the new packaging regulations to be introduced this month and their implications for manufacturers, consumers and the environment 12/6)

in a environment (2/8)
9.30 Kateldoecope (r) 9.59 Westher
10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabal Hilton
10.45 Book at Bedthme: Reading in the Dark, by
Seamus Deane. Read by Stephen Rea (8/8)
11.00 The Sidvers. The correctly sketch show with Tim

11.00 The Sidvers. The comedy statch show with him De Jong (2/6) (r)
11.30 Doon Your Way. The comedy series featuring Doon Mackichen, Parr Ferris, Lesley Sharp, Phil Cornwell, Anne Rabbit and Alisair McGowan (r)
12.00 News 12.30am The Lab Book: The Waxp Factory, by lain Senks (8/10)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE RADIO 1. FM 97.6-93.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-6.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215, TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089.



problems

FROM JOHN HOPKINS

as cheerful as an undertaker.

his troublesome back and his golf. "The trouble with my golf," he said with about as much levity as he can manage on a sensitive subject, "is that the ball doesn't go as quick as before into the hole. I don't feel comfortable with my swing. He is 30 over par for his ten competitive rounds in five tournaments this season.

José María Olazábal to recovmore visits to Germany.

tinents and that is the end of

good for everyone."

Playing the fool, but it's no laughing matter

those that take in millions of us. Yesterday, Esther Rantzen, never a woman to duck a challenge, harnessed the full might of afternoon television and managed to hoodwink . . ! just one. Fair do's, Esther (BBC2) didn't make a bad job of it. The young

man in question was to borrow

I (BBC), 9.30pm

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Real Control

from his own fascinating vernacular, eventually "done up like a kipper, my dear". But quality should not detract from the lack of quantity. It was, still, just the one. Which is more than can be said of Rantzen letting us "at home" in on the joke. How many of these conspiratorial pieces to camera has she done over the years? Hundreds, thousands, millions who knows? Once again, I watched with a mixture of faint nausea and fainter fascination as

The best April Fool jokes are knows that ... except one young flashed Rantzen, what do you say man who thinks it's about infidelity."

But it was the victim himself who turned a bog-standard April Fool into something special. His unshakeable self-confidence and rich use of language were all apparently genuine and very nearly allowed him to gain the upper hand. Nothing that Rantzen could say rattled him. You've broken hundreds of hearts, she taunted. He bridled theatrically and gave us our first earful of an accent that made Danny Baker sound like Professor Higgins: "I'm a true gentleman." Come on, chided Rantzen, you've had your "share of the birds" in your time - any idea how many? "One or two."

Nothing, however, could beat his response to the planted actress, who claimed that she had enjoyed a one-night stand with our man, as a result of which she had become pregnant and had a baby. There,

to her now? Our hero gave it plenty. "How dare you come on this show, my dear, and accuse me of knocking you up?"

n the end they got him, thanks to some inside information L about tattoos supplied by his soon-to-be former best friend. But it had been a valiant effort. The rest of the programme passed as a reminder that people who list practical jokes as a hobby are best avoided, particularly if the funfilled prankster in question is a funeral director. His firm, he chortled, had an old retainer who was in the habit of taking an afternoon nap in one of the coffins. Until the afternoon when "some of the lads" screwed the lid down. What it is to be game for a laugh.

More japes round at Albert

Square and EastEnders (BBCI).

where Nigel, having trawled the

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

with the idea of super-gluing a £1 coin to the pavement. This confirmed what many of us think about the Internet but put a spoke in what I, at least, had been thinking recently about Nigel, Until then, Nigel (Paul Bradley), for so long cast as the Queen Vic's fool, had been making more sense with every episode. What was it he said to Lorraine on Easter Mon-Internet for inspiration, came up day? "Never judge a man until you

have walked a mile in his shoes." Brilliant - even if it did come from a fortune cookie.

This, however, was a revert-totype episode for our marathon This is better than TV," he chuckled, as assorted extras tried to prise the pound from the navement. Eventually, the regulars took pity on them and Nigel was presented with the coin, still glued to its slab, as part of his change at the Queen Vic. The one surprise was that with Grant firmly back in Desperate Dan mode, the paving stone hadn't had a bite taken out of it.

Best April fool of all, however, was Sarah, newly returned from the clutches of another goodlooking Christian, arranging to have her father, Ted, arrested and charged with grievous bodily harm. I do note, however, that it was after midday when the arrest took place. So sorry, Sarah, I don't think it counts.

There was, I confess, the odd the shades of grey that muddy moment when I thought that Timewatch: The Forgotten Allies (BBC2) might be an April fool. That was partly because of the veterans, most of whom were interviewed in mahogany-lined libraries and recounted tales of extraordinary bravery in the Burma war in the laid-back, matter-offact military style that has been parodied mercilessly over the years. One chap recalled his own personal method of flushing out the Japanese. "I used to chuck a grenade or two in and say there you are, share that among you'."

ut my doubts (in reality B more about the pro-gramme's objectivity than its veracity) stemmed far more from the script. No matter how soothing Susannah York's narration was, there was no mistaking that everything was being present-ed in black and white rather than

most nationalist disputes around the world. Here the goodies were the Karen, a hill people who. unlike other indigenous Burmese, were loval to the British before, during and after the Japanese occupation. The baddies were the Japanese, the Burmese collaborators, the Attlee postwar Government and post-colonial Britain in general. As one aggrieved Karen put it: 'Once the British left they forgot about us completely."

What we had here was very nearly a party political broadcast for the Karen National Union, which 50 years on is still seeking an independent state, a state which they say they were promised by the British. I have no grounds for believing the Karen are not fighting a just cause (no counterarguments were advanced last night) but I would have liked to arrive at that conclusion without feeling quite so manipulated.

BBC1

she leant forward and confided

that today's subject was practical

jokes: Everyone in the studio

6.00am Business Breakfast (73821) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (78289) 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (8384395) 9.20 Style Challenge (3805260) 9.45 Kilroy (2440208)

10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (20579) 11.00 News (T) (4983043) 11.05 The Really Useful Show (9426734) 271.35 Change That (6857208)

Peer Hale 12.00 News (T) and weather (4650111) 12.05pm Call My Bluff (5202840) 12.35 Good Living (9033111) 1.00 News (T) and weather (6251111)

1.35 Regional News (50688314) 1.45 The Weather Show (39161802) 1.50 Neighbours (T) (22014598) 2.10 Quincy (7904918) 3.00 As Time Goes By Penny goes into

hospital for a routine operation (r) (3269) 3.30 Playdays (6415289) 3.56 Monster Cale (9051821) 4.05 The New Yogi Bear Show (9333043) 4.10 Popeye and Son (8438111) 4.35 Out of Tune New drama about a small village choir (7760111) 5.00 Newsround (T) (5411260) 5.10 Blue Peter (T) (5837901)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (352043) 6.00 News (T) and weather (53) 6.30 Newsroom South East (T) (55)

7.00 How Do They Do That? New series presented by Esther McVey and Earnonn Rolmes. A man who taught a flock of geese to fly, how scientists unlocked the secrets of life on Mars; and the special effects that create a winter wonderland in less than two hours (8598)

7.30 Tomorrow's World Philippa Forrester tries out an innovative self-cooling suit designed to allow firefighters to work salely in extreme temperatures. Plus: Howard Stableford reports on technology which could help paralysed people by picking up their brainwaves (1) (89)

8.00 The National Lottery Live Carol Smillie introduces the millionaire-making draw (1) (841753)

8.15 25 Years of the Two Ronnies Classic cornedy clips from Messrs Barker and Corbett. Last in series (1) (538289)

2 55 Polinis of View Anne Robinson present a selection of viewers' comments on BBC

9.00 News (T) and weather (2647) Army of Innocents Docu-mentary about marking the

50th anniversary of National Service in Britain (8604) 11.00 Sportspicht Desmond Lynam intro duces highlights of tonight's World Cup qualifiers, including Scotland v Austria at Celtic Park, Ukraine v Northern Ireland,

and Macedonia v the Republic of Ireland. Plus Julian Wilson Jonks forward to 12.15am A Town Like Alice (1956) with Virginia McKenna and Peter Finch. An English woman and an Australian PoW

struggle to survive a Japanese death march. Directed by Jack Lee (923111) 2.10 Weather (3565154)

Pks+ and the Video PlusCodes VideoPiss+ and the Video Priss-Code
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Instantly with a VideoPiss+" heardest. Tap in
the Video Piss-Code for the programme you
wish to record. Videopius+ ("), Piss-Code (")
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BBC2

6.00 Open University: Miles of Alsles (2680821) 6.25 The Birth of Calculus (2609956) 6.50 Flight Simulators and Robots (3772753) 7.15 See Hear Breaklast News (8484734) 7.30 Secret Life of Toys (2976869) 7.45 The Raccoons (4563444) 8.10 Wacky Races (3468918) 8.35 The Lowdown (3570260) 9.05 Activ-8 (1024109) 9.35 Sweet Valley High (r) (7498289) 9.55 Funnybones (r) (2552192) 10.10 Teletubbies (1760208) 10.35 Babar (r) (3026531) 11.00 The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles (41289) 12.30 Working Lunch (62043) 1.00 Secret Life of Toys (13590258)

1.15 Passage to Marsellies (1944, b/w) with Humohrey Bogart, Peter Lotre and Claude Rains. A journalist investigating a French Air Force squadron based in Britain discovers that their leader has escaped from Devil's Island. Directed by Michael Curtiz (26347647)

3.00 News (T) and weather (7954208) 3.05 The Natural World Marine predators (9184043) 3.55 News (T) and weather (6065192) 4.00 Blockbusters (6082869) 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (6085956) 4.55 Esther (r) (9151289) 5.30 Today's the Day (82)

6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (r) (T) (302956)

6.45 Trev and Simon's Transmission Impossible (776395)

7.00 Seven Wonders of the World Thomas Eisner, Professor of Biology at Cornell University describes his personal wonders of the world (1) (9840) 7.30 Black Britain Profile of Paula Ferton, a

lupus sufferer (T) (31) 8.00 University Challenge Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School v King's College School of Medicine and Dentistry

8.30 Changing Rooms Last in the interior design challenge series (r) (T) (4395)



Cleaner Flo Kragh (9.00pm)

9.00 Modern Times: Dirty Work
The work of professional cleaners (T) (203937)

9.50 A Woman Called Smith Story of a Bristol mother who, upon discovering her son's heroin addiction, set up a local anti-drugs organisation (T) (155289) 10.00 Airport (r) (57442)

10.30 Newsnight with Jeremy Paxman (T)

11.30 The Kingdom: Thy Kingdom Come in Danish with English subtities (89173)

12.30 Learning Zone: Open University 96609) 1.30 Food Whose Choice is it Arryway? (35086) 2.00 Language Season (39970) 4.00 BBC Focus: English (39970) 4,00 BBC Focus: English Heritage (55425) 4,30 Unicel in the Classroom (77574) 5,00 Basic Skills: What's the Problem? (53406) 5.30 Voluntary Matters (13203)

6,00am GMTV (6981956) 9.25 Chain Letters (T) (3820579) 9.55 Regional News (T) (2942666) 10.00 The Time, the Place (50395) 10.30 This Morning (T) (61302227) 12.20pm Regional News (1) (4656395) 12.30 News (T) and weather (9036208) 12.55 Shortland Street (1) (9044227) 1,25 Home and Away (T) (64406802) 1.50 Afternoon Live (80636032) 2.20 Vanessa (T) (74216127) 2.50 Alternoon Live (5219598) 3.20 News (T) (7961598) 3,25 Regional News (T) (7960869)

(r) 4.10 Animantacs (T) (9316376) 4.20 Pinky and the Brain (T) (5540208) 4.40 Cone Zone (T) (8575550) 5.10 Look and Cook (1893579) 5.40 News (T) and weather (595821) 6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (346918) 6.25 HTV Weather (255227)

3.30 Tots TV: Sausages (r) (6407579) 3.40 The Blobs (9058734) 3.50 Sooty and Co

6.30 HTV News (1) (73) 7.00 Emmerdale Kim's will springs some surprises and Linda hears a tearful contession (T) (3666)

7.30 Coronation Street Mike Baldwin decides it is time to fight back and Natalia causes Kevin some discomfort (T) (85)



Neil Morrissey stars (8.00pm)

8.00 The Vanishing Man An uneasy cornedy about an experiment — which works — to make ople invisible With Neil Morrissey and Barbara Flynn, Followed by National

10.00 News (T) and weather (30956) 10.30 Regional News (T) (717753)

10.40 Gremlins II: The New Batch (1990) starring Zach Galligan, Phoebe Cates and John Glover. Satirical sequel to the 1984 hit. Look for a string of cameos and movie in-jokes. Directed by Joe Dante (T) (16822208)

12.35am Dating the Enemy Patricia Mitchell presents the series in which a segregated studio audience of men and women get the chance to say what they really think about the opposite sex (5287241) 1.10 Real Stories of the Highway Patrol

1.35 Keys to the Kingdom (1990) with Dick Van Dyke, Daphne Ashbrooke and Kate Vernon, A newspaper published

becomes the target of an old rival who will 3.15 Not Fade Away (r) (744777)

4.15 Sound Bites (58892512) 4.30 The Time, the Place (r) (44488) 5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (40932) 5.30 News (40357)

As HTV West except: 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (9044227) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1893579)

6.25-7.00 Central News (269802)

2.40 The Chart Show (4181777) 3.35 Comedy Central (2036086)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except: 12.20pm-12.30 illuminations (4656395) 12.55-1.50 Emmerdale (6059192) 5,10-5.40 Home and Away (1893579)

As HTV West except: 12,55-1.25 A Country Practice (9044227) 5,10-5.40 Home and Away (1893579) 6.00 Meridian Tonight (21) 6,30-7.00 Doing It Up (73)

ANGLIA As HTV West except:

6.23 Anglia Weather (256956) 6,25-7.00 Angila News (269802)

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (66531) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (94227) 9.00 Bewitched (17005)

9.55 Hangin' with Mr Cooper (7487173) 10.20 The Crystal Maze (7784444) **11,20 Earthworm Jim** (4961289 11.45 The Pink Panther (6486192)

12.00 Fresh Pop (4643821) 12 05pm California Dreams (9738173) 12.30 Baby It's You (57111)

1,00 Slot Meithrin (25295686) 1.15 Lisabeth (34740591)

3.20 Fresh Pop (7943192)

3.30 Collectors' Lat (79) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (14)

5,00 5 Pump (6361005) 5.15 Mynd Drot Drot: Y Ferlen A'r Cob Cymrelg (5423005)

6.00 Newyddion (960647) 6.05 Heno (357024)

6.35 Bob Yn Ddau (239289) 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (450005)

7.25 Ffermio (913531)

9.30 Roseanne (44647)

CENTRAL

12.35am Dating the Enemy (7258864) 1.35 Funky Bunker (840-1406)

4.30 Central Jobfinder '97 (9467154)

5.20 Asian Eye (2749319)

6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (34260)

MERIDIAN

5.00am Freescreen (40932)

12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (9044227) 5,10-5.40 Shortland Street (1893579)

SIC .

9.30 Sister Sister (8966685)

1.30 Film: Wee Willie Winkle (76137734)

4.30 Wild Britain (98)

5.30 Countdown (50)

8.00 Phwoarl (2276) 8.30 Newvddion (9463) 9.00 Spin City (1043)

10.00 Brookside (906208) 10.35 ER (143802) 11.30 Caroline in the City (47821) 12.00am Under the Moon (394609)

4.30-5.30 Trans World Sport (48970)

2,30 NBA XXL (98703)

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (66531) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (94227) 9.00 Bewitched (r) (17005) 9.30 Sister Sister (r) (8866685) 9.55 Hangin' with Mr Cooper (r) (T) (7487173) 10.20 The Crystal Maze (r) (7784444) 11.20 Earthworm Jim (r) (4961289) 11.45 The Pink Panther

12.00 Fresh Pop (4643821)

12.05pm California Dreams (r) (9738173) 12.30 Light Lunch presented by Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins (50937) 1.30 Gustav, Man of Moods Hungarian

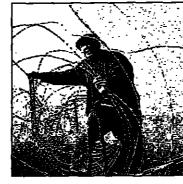
animation (50672753) 1.40 Everybody Does It (1949, b/w) starring Paul Douglas and Lind Darnell. A comedy about a hard-bitten contractor who is discovered to have a superb singing voice. Directed by Edmund Goulding (76133918)

3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (79) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (14) 4.30 Countdown (T) (98) 5.00 Ricki Lake (T) (1444) 5.30 The Real Hollday Show (r) (T) (50)

6.00 Party of Five Grandfather (Carroll O'Connor) makes a Christmas visit (T) (388376) 6.50 Fresh Pop (926463) 7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (674005)

7.55 Thatcher's Children (167043)

8.00 Brookside It is Elaine and Mick's wedding day (1) (2276) 8.30 An Inspector Calls: Strictly Kosher The work of the kosher inspectors, employed by the Beth Din, to see that the aws of Kashrut are enforced (T) (9463)



Walker Barry Anderson (9.00pm)

9,00 Countryside Undercover: Dangerous Walks What happens when rural footpaths and bridleways are strewn with barbed wire and "keep out signs (T)

9.30 Fortean TV Father Lionel Fanthorpe introduces highlights from the series about the inexplicable (1) (44647)

10.00 ER: Fortune's Fools Nurse Hathaw puts her job in on the line when she talks to the press about a patient's death. Benton is told he going to be a father and Dr Green asks for advice on how to finish a relationship (T) (8444) 11 00 Friends: The One after the Superbowl

Part 2. When the gang visit Marcel on the

movie set, Rachel offers to help Monica meet the stars. Featuring guest appearances by Jean-Claude Van Damme and Julia Roberts (r) (1) (3260) 11.30 Roseanne Christmas celabrations are put on hold when Jackie overhears a mysterious telephone call (1) (47821)

12.00 Under the Moon Sports magazine (394609) 2.30 NBA XXL American basketball action (98703)

4.30 Transworld Sport (48970) 5.30-6.00 Backdate (r) (T) (48999)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News Early News, sport and entertainment (7113376) 7.30 Havakazoo Magazine for pre-school children (2233734)

8.00 Adventures of the Bush Patrol Ben 8.30 Wideworld: History in the Making Russell Grant investigates local history (2850734)

9.00 Espresso Daily magazine show teaturing advice, discussion and consumer advice

(5850685) 10.00 Exclusive Entertainment news (r) (6168734)

10.30 Fame and Fortune (r) (2870598) 11.00 Leeza: Can An Affair Save Your Marriage? (9090482) 11.50 Espresso Update (45664227)

12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Storm tries to stop Ridge from marrying his sister (T) (2854550) 12.30pm Family Affairs (1) (T) (9745666)

1.00 5 News Update (92768802) 1.05 Sunset Beach Meg is caught spying on Casey (T) (6860376) 2.00 5's Company Live entertainment show (9275901)

3.30 Born Too Soon (1992) Based on the true story of two journalists and their battle to keep their premature daughter alive. Starring Michael Moriarty and Pamela Reed (4748005)

5,30 100 Per Cent Gameshow (1717869) 8.00 Whittle (T) (1707482) 6.30 Family Affairs Angus tries to make the

5.20 5's Company Update (14628111)

peace between Chris and his wife Sally (T) (1798734) 7.00 Exclusive (1615918) 7.30 Serengeti Safari: The Fastest Thing on Four Legs (1) (1794918)



Hawkins and Bradley (8.00pm)

8.00 The Great Garden Game with Paul Hawkins and Clare Bradley. In the first of a gardening game show the contestants are challenged to replace a grass path with a gravel one, in 3 hours (1624666)

8.30 5 News (1603173) 9.00 Rich In Love (1993) Family drama about the coming of age of a Southern Belle.
With Albert Finney, Jill Clayburgh and
Kathryn Erbe (32335685) 10.50 Exclusive Extra (5515802)

11.00 The Jack Docherty Show Late night chat and comedy hosted by Scottish comedian Jack Docherty (3347537) 11,40 Tibs and Fibs Medical quiz presented by

Tony Slattery (2905840) 12.10am Live and Dangerous Late night sports show hosted by Dominik Diamond and Trish Adudu (95425311) 4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (6920241)

5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (5808222)

• For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable

channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

6.00am Morning Glory (41 1907) 9.00 Re 6.00em Morning Glory (411907) 9.00 Register Mortic Les (36802) 10.00 Another World (36598) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (15734) 12.00 The Oprah Wintrey Show (8482) 1.00pm Geraldo (74802) 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (71802) 3.00 Jersy Jones (14866) 4.00 The Oprah Wintrey Show (86173) 6.00 Sear Trek: The Next Generation (6753) 6.00 Real TV (4043) 6.30 Membed—with Children (5395) 7.00 The Simpsons (9482) 7.20 MrA-S+H (1579) 8.00 Sightings (39753) 9.00 Sight Sallings (29753) 9.00 Sight Trek: The Next Generation (17937) 12.30em LAPD (19777) 1.00 Hill No. Large (18767970) (39777) 1.00 Hr Mr. Long Play (8767970)

3 <u>SKY 2</u> 7.00pm Superboy (4945837) 7.30 Superboy (399734) 8.00 Renegade (1080850) 8.00 New York Undercover (1080314) 10.00 Water Rats (1060173) (6575395) 12.00 HR Max (8633048)

SKY NEWS Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on SKY MOVIES

8.00am Freefall: Flight 174 (1993) (86375802) 7.35 Man of La Mancha (1972) (2226956) 8.46 The Magic Kid II (1993) (4379050) 11.10 Warlords of Atlantia (1978) (19412840) 12.50pm The Slipper and the Rose (1976) (88559915) 3.15 Sessions of the Heart (1993) 2.15 Sessions of the Heart (1983) 2.831(885) 5.00 Camp Nowhere (1994) 95688) 7.00 Freedall: Flight 174 (1993) (2511) 8.00 The Young Poissons's Handbook (1985) (34208) 11.00 Indecont restruction (1993) (34246) 11.46 interesting the Heaville (1994) (700937) 12.463mt Orive, He Said (1972) (5101651) 2.10 Sin Companion (1994) (784965) 4.10 Sections of the Heart (1993) (619241)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL 6,00mm Connections Yankee (26405937) 7.40 Exploits at West Poley (1985) 8205/70) 8.45 Gabrielle and the Doodleman (1984) (343024) 9.45 The Diagon That Wasn't, or Was He? (1994) (8903840) 11.10 Lost in Alaska (1952) (511366) 12.30pm Another Michight Ran (1964) (3966) 2.00 Betham Forever (1965) (41586) 4.00 Exploits at West Poley (1965) (61181) 5.00 Gabrielle and the Doodleman (1994) (1463) 6.00 Stank Cheque (1994) (44821) 7.30 El News West in Review (4269) 8.00 Bankan Forever (1965) (33579) 10.00 Fistuli of Dollars (1966) (896531) 11.40 The Read to Wellville! (1964) (224192) 1.40am Malone (1967) (874390) 3.15 Pathy Heurst (1968) (620512) 5.00 Sherlock Holmes: A Shudy in Scarlet (1984) (60684)

6.00pm The Barbarian and the Geisha

6.00pm The Berbarian and the Geraha (1958) (8874918) 8.00 Like Father, Like Son (1987) (8879463) 10.00 New Jack City (1991) (4860005) 11.45 Paths of Glory (1957) (3434463) 1.15em for Collector (1965) (3185405) 2.15-5.05 Henren Knoten, Mr Alfison (1957) (6530512) 9.00pm Seven Faces of Dr Lao (1964) (69039734) 11.00 The Year of Living Designment (1963) (55708005) 2.00am The Night Digger (1971) (33454715) 2.45-5.00 Seven Faces of Dr Lao (1964)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (65753) 7.30 Blast Off (40622) 8.30 Recing News (85043) 9.00 Sports Centre (76395) 9.30 Aerobras Or Swis (12685) 10.00 The Footballers' Football Show (40444) 11.00 International Football (60208) 12.00 Shocker: British Open — Live (657050) 4.69pm Sports Centre (186647) 5.00 Shotgun Challenge (6937) 6.00 Sports Centre (8005) 6.30 Formula Three Recing (21227) 7.30 Rugby Union — Live (51966) 9.30 Futbol Mundail (58127) 10.00 Sports Centre (57260) 10.30 Snocker British Open (71734) 12.30am Sports Centre (77851) 1.00 Rugby Union (5032) 3.00 Formula Three Racing (83593) 4.004.30 Sports Centre (44864) 7,00em Sports Centre (65753) 7.30 Blast

12.00 Golf Eura (37632258) 1.30pm International Cricket — Live (74396753) 9.30 World of Super League (66387111) 11.00-11.30 European Tour Golf Magazine

EUROSPORT

7.30em Football (15314) 9.00 All Sports (7644) 10.00 Dog-Sied Rating (43043) 10.30 Snowbearding (67647) 11.00 Boung (55376) 12.00 Mistoroyching (81227) 12.30pm Mohocross (18889) 1.00 Baskel-ball (59192) 1.30 Freende (37604) 2.30 Rally Raid (84096) 3.30 Al Soons (40665) 4.33 Skysurfing (6668) 8.00 Drag Racing (2598) 5.30 Mohocris (97.734) 7.00 Football (66695) 8.00 Football — Live (65621) 10.00 Football (70260) 11.30 Temps (49.277) 12.00-12.30em Adventure (18795)

UK GOLD

bours (5359043) 8.00 Crossroads (3357260) 8.25 EastEnders (6798482) 9.00 The Bill (8881442) 9.30 Don't Wart Up Ins 86 (6694-42) \$3.00 Hove the Twan (4430376) (4709163) 10.00 Nover the Twan (4430376) 10.30 The Sulfivars (8186294) 11.00 Shoesting (4387260) 12.00 Crustraeds (4481686) 12.30pm Neighbours (6604799) 1.00 EastEnders (8775579) 1.35 On the Up (7265078) 2.10 A Little Bit of Davison (69140983) 2.20 Sonyi (6674753) 2.55 Allo. 'Allo (9180668) 3.30 The Bill (2400463) 4,00 All Creetures Great and (240463) 5.07 (261269) 5.00 Generation Game (36372482) 6.05 EastEnders (4186802) 6.40 Are You Being Served? (1091734) 7.20 Russ Abbot (4261463) 7.50 Bullseye (6390937) 8.20 In Sickness and in Health 324395) 9,00 The Bill (5260173) 9,30 Frank Stubbs Promotes (79883921) 10.35 Sports Anorak of the Year (5616802) 11.10 Hazeli (3780579) 12.10em The Best of Sparin Account on the Pasir (bit 18802) 11-10 Hozell (3780579) 12-10em The Best of T. O T.P. (1989864) 12-55 Bites the Bullet (6123864) 1.20 Catlen (3594390) 2.15 Shopping at Night (29604864)

GRANADA PLUS 8.00em The Krypton Factor (5900395) 6.30 Tickle on the Turn (23701666) 6.45 Atalah's Music (79985753) 7.00 1-2-3 Go! (9618802) 7.15 Tickle on the Turn (3575043) 7.20 The (4384568) 12.00 Classic Coronation Steet (5040111) 12.30pm Families (6890647) 1.00 Creum Couri (4388314) 1.30 The Good Life Guide (6899916) 2.00 A Family at War (2864111) 3.00 Upstars Downstars (3598482) 4.00 The Doctor Scress (5481050) 4.30 A Fine Romance (9081014)



SATELLITE AND CABLE

Forming (4231717) 6.30 Classic Caronation Street (8384839) 7.00 The Doctor Senes 8.00 Upstars, Downstars (2490821) 9.00 Classic Coronation Street (3534173) 9.30

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00em Big Garage (9283840) 6.15 Mupper Babies (7041531) 6.40 The Care Bears (1588356) 7.05 Enchanted Tales (6778589) 7.55 The Little Mermad (1672579) 8.20 Aladdin (9034901) 8.45 Quack, Pack (8606314) 9.10 New Doug 3967598) 9.35 Mighly Ducks (347757 19.00 Goof Troop (9773005) 10.25 Derkwing Duck (6777444) 10.50 Temon and Purrbas (3694666) 11.15 Bonkers (197847) 11.45 The Little Mermand (197847) 11.45 The Little Mermard (559463) 12.10pm Quack Attack (2418024) 12.40 Mouse Tracks (523821) 11.10 Such with Me Kid (1675918) 2.00 FILM: The Ransom of the Red Chief (19137) 2.30 Timon and Pumbas (1446024) 3.40 New Doug (3844145) 4.05 Good Troop (3267014) 4.30 Quack Pack (9774376) 4.55 Auddin (9785111) 5.20 Flash Forward Pumbas (1446024)

Kirk Douglas stars in Paths of Glory (Movies Gold, 11.45pm) (600227) 6.00 Mighty Ducks (2869) 6.30 Boy Meets World (6621) 7.00 Brotherly Love (7208) 7.30 FILM: Parent Trap II (69696) 9.00-10.00 Touched by an Angel (20043)

> 6.00em Three Little Ghosts (1000647) 8.30 Irespector Geolget (7456043) 7.00 Semurer Przza Cats (6566647) 7.30 Eagle Riders (6578482) 8.00 Murant Hero Turtes (8904647) 8.30 Masked Rider (8903916) 9.00 Big Bad Beerleborgs (8927596) 9.30 Power Rangers Zeo (7889802) 10.00 Casper (7447955) 10.30 Ace Ventura (8916482) 11.00 Lie with Loue (8556734) 11.30 The Task (8557463) 12.00 incredible Hulk (8907734) 12.30 pml Mortal kombat (7870618) 1.00 Hidhlander (6566918) 3.30 (7870918) 1.00 Highlander (6565918) 1.30 Eagle Riders (7879289) 2.00 Mutent Herb Turnes: (4934821) 2.30 Masked Rider (3617969) 3.00 Big Bad Beetleborgs (4953956) 3.30 Power Rangers Zeo (4953970) (3612314) 4.09 Casper (3691821) 4.39 Ace Ventura (3697005) 5.00 Spidermen (4925173) 5.30 Goosebumps (3611685)

6.00am Road to Avontea (45145) 7.00

Dennis the Menace (59918) 8.00 Barman

TCC

FOX KIDS NETWORK 6.00ezn Three Little Ghosts (1000647) 6.30

8.00pm The New Twilight Zone (384866) 8.30 The New Twilight Zone (3827173) 9.00 The Burning Zone (9791024) 10.00 Tour of Duty (9794111) 11.00 FILM: Maniec Cop

(15208) 8.30 Arl Artack (14579) 9.00 Flash Gordon (98531) 9.30 Bobby's World (34821) 10.00 Romuald the Reindeer (53043) 10.30 Robinson Sucros (27043) 11.00 Danger Mouse (86111) 11.30 Gravedale High (87840) 12.00 Cocar's Cyrthestra (18395) 12.30pm Hallwey Across the Galavy and Turn Left (4537) 1.00 By the Way of the Stars (69192) 1.30 Black Beauty (44208) 2.00 The Girl from Tomostow (8688) 2.30 Cocan Odyssey (7314) 3.00 Art Attack (8173) 3.30 Flash Gordon (9531) 4.00 Balman (8685) 4.30-5.00 The Rin Dish (7550)

5.00 The Bla Dish (7550) Non-stop cartoons from 5.00mm to 9.00pm. Includes Tom and Jeny, Popeye and The Filhistones

NICKELODEON

6.00em Mutant Hero Turtles (77258) 6.30 Count Duckula (32937) 7.00 Captain Simian (63395) 7.30 Tales from the Cryptheeper (42802) 8.00 Bruno the Kid (84314) 8.30 Hey Amold (83985) 9.00 Rugrais (74937) 9.30 Rugrais (10227) 10.00 Aashhi Reel Monsters (23289) 10.30 Doug (63821) 11.00 Rocko's Modern Lite (48937) 11.30 Balley Kipper's Point of View (49666) 12.00 kerren and Kei (54173) 12.30pm The Secret World of Alex Mack (14043) 1.00 Stater Sister (62666) 1.30 Moesha (13314) 2.00 Round the Twest (4192) 2.30 Pere and Pete (3918) 3.00 (4162) 2.30 Fee and Fee (3319) 3.00 Slickin' Around (3227) 3.30 Azanhi Real Moneters (8463) 4.00 WOW (7598) 4.30 WOW (6482) 5.00 WOW (5444) 5.30 WOW (7734) 6.00 Press Gang (4647) 6.30-7.00

TROUBLE

12.00 Hearthreak High (31594)24) 1.00pm Madrson (4383444) 1.30 Sweet Valley High (875968) 2.00 Hangtime (3828802) 2.30 California Dreams (2423314) 3.00 Bytes (24495531) 4.00 Sweet Valley High (2414865) 4.30 Hangtime (240350) 6.00 Sweet by the Ball (382482) 5.30 California Dreams (2494802) 6.00 Bytes Grove (2424043) 8.30 Madison (2415395) 7.00-8.00 Hearthreak High (9795840) break High (9795840)

II (6829622) 1.00mm The Burning Zone (4581115) 2.00 Tour of Duty (9576425) 3.00 FILM: Fellini's Roma (406) New Twitcht Zone (2995870) PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Enterteinment UK (5208) 7.30 Roseenne (7111) 8.00 Roseenne (4956) Fundament UK (5208) 7.30
Roseanne (4966)
8.30 Monry Python (3463) 9.00 Cheers (28173) 9.30 Tax (5810) 10.00 Garry Shandian (5802) 10.30 Fassier (64550) 11.00 Armstrong and Miler (30918) 11.30 Monry Python (12173) 12.00 Murses (14970) 12.30em Soap (75593) 1.00 Cheers (48609) 1.30 Tax (87086) 2.00 Cheers (48609) 1.30 Tax (87086) 2.00 Entertainment UK (51154) 2.30 Armstrong Entertainment UK (51154) 2.30 Arms and Miles (30661) 3.00 Frasier (28845 3.30-4.00 Garry Shandling (54241)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL Budgin The Guyer (1808-65) 8.30 Fine Magic and the Mystery (6389043) 9.30 Fill Mr. Greenlolds (6389043) 11.15 The Force Returns (9300314) 11.45 FILM: Gramiolets (1905647) 1.30am The Magic and the Mystery (9896512) 2.30 The Force Returns (5879241) 3.00-4.00 Finday the

Joe 10.00 Sters and Gardens (4438918) 10.30 Our House (1195996) 11.00 The Painted House (5298579) 11.30 This Old House (5299208) 12.00 Yan Can Cook ROSSESSION 12.30pm Graham Kerr (2909181) 1.30pm Graham Kerr (2909181) 1.00 Today's Gournet (499918) 1.30 Home Again (335924) 2.00 Homestine (3831376) 2.30 Fundure to Go (2498280) 3.00 Two's Country (3843111) 3.30-4.00 This Old House

DISCOVERY

9.00mm The Joy of Painting 9.30 Grow with

4.00pm Fishing Adventures (2410940) 4.30 Bush Tucker Men (2418024) 5.00 Treasure Hunters (2855956) 5.30 Beyond 2000 (2407375) 6.00 WRO Things (1359442) 7.00 Invention (3835192) 7.30 Wonders of Weather (2417753) 8.00 World of Strange Powers (3844840) 8.30 The Ouest (3830647) 9.00 Unexplained (9704598) 16.00 T-Rex Exposed (9707685) 11.00 Warnors (4306395) 12.00 Classic Wheels (8395816) 1.00em Top Marques (1284999) THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Ancient Mysteries (1883869) 5.06

East: Last Emperors (1191604) 7.00-8.00 Biography: Jesse Jackson (4308685) **CHALLENGE TV**

7.40 Give Us A Clue (309163) 8.20 All Clued Up (131753) 9.00 Through the Caued Up (1317-33) 9.000 Infologin the Leyhole (489598) 8.35 Busmen's Holiday (374227) 10.05 Trescure Hunti (832024) 11.20 Love at Firs Sight (881802) 12.00 Tale of the Century (35116) 12.30em Hart to Har (53048) 1.30 Moonlighting (48085) 2.30 Christy (99488) 3.30 Claymation Easter (70203) 4.00-5.00 The Fall Guy

6.00am Tiny Living (\$296050) 9.00 Gladrags and Glamour (8550395) 9.16 Gordon Ellioti (6290734) 10.05 Jerry Stringer (7859111) 11.00 The Young and the Restless (6195463) 11.50 Brookside (2470005) 12.55 Tempest (8040376) 1.40 Rolanda (8386227) 2.30 The Heat Is On Rolonda (6396227) 2.380 The Heat is United States (26427573) 4.05 Jeny Springer (9214918) 5.05 Lingo (79094647) 5.35 Lucky Ladders (981869) 6.00 I Dream of Jeannie (3872260) 6.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (2378005) 7.95 Hearts Aire (1206840) 7.35 Prodistote (2822365) 8.05 Rolonda (572665) 9.00 FILM: Statking Back (9222665) 9.00 FILM: Statking Back ZEE TV

7.00am Jaacran 7.30 Election Special 8.00

ZEE Calling 8.30 Mea 9.00 Eber Jumbs Mawja 9.30 Abhmetri 10.00 Tara 11.00 The Low Cal Show 11.30 Dence Mana 12.00 Presents 4.10 Public Demand 5.10 Alf Lails 6.00 Campus 6.30 ZEE and You 7.90 Kernal Kombination 7.30 Election Special 8.00 News 8.35 Dastagn 9.05 Pathar 10.00 Hit Thi Hit Hai 10.30 Purush Kshetra 11.30-

The 24 hour music charmel includes news, reviews, live concert toolage, inter-



SQUASH 43

Walker plays by the book at British Open

SPORT'

SIMON BARNES 46

Why sport's artful dodgers push their luck to the limit



WEDNESDAY APRIL 2 1997

Injuries force selectors to pick and hope

RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE first British Isles and Ireland rugby union party to visit South Africa for 17 years will be named today and it is a melancholy fact that, such is the paucity of talent in certain positions, several players who have neither form nor fitness

on their side are likely to be chosen. One of those positions, wing threequarter, was further complicated yesterday by reports that Ieuan Evans had withdrawn from contention. But Evans, the former Wales captain and one of three players considered to have the necessary qualities to lead the Lions, denied suggestions that he would not tour if Martin Johnson

was preferred as captain. The Lianelli wing, 33 and a veteran of the 1989 and 1993 Lions tours, decided earlier in the year that he would bid for a place to South Africa and he assured the four home unions committee last night that his availability was

unchanged. That will have been a particular relief before the committee confirmed the choice of the selectors, since so few quality finishers are available.

Indeed, Evans would be my choice as captain, given the respect in which he is held, his ability to hold down an international place and the positive image he presents to the world at large. However, the likelihood is that Johnson, a contender to captain England this season, will follow in the steps of other locks who have led the Lions in South Africa - Robin Thompson (1955), Willie-John McBride (1974)

and Bill Beaumont (1980). The first Lions party of the professional era, 35 strong, will have been examined more exhaustively than its predecessors. Notational analysis has been done on all contenders so that selection is based not only on the evidence of watching eyes but also the camera's unforgiving glare, which can reveal elements of play that might

However, unforgiving glares are not confined to the camera. The team management of Fran Cotton. Ian McGeechan and Jim Telfer are rich in experience and between them can claim seven Lions tours as players and four as coaches. It is hard to believe that any trio could offer greater knowledge of the peculiar demands such a tour creates, or be more aware of

playing trends in the global game. For all that, the party will include more than its fair share of hit-andhopers, a situation imposed largely by injury. What to do, for example, with Keith Wood. Neil Jenkins, Simon Geoghegan, Colin Charvis, Gwyn Jones, Christian Loader and Bryan Redpath? All are, or have been, injured at significant stages this season, yet the chances are that Wood, the Ireland hooker and erstwhile captain. Geoghegan, the Ireland wing, and Jenkins, the leading British points-scorer from Pontypridd, will all be chosen.

Peter Clohessy, now playing his rugby for Queensland, is likely to

DAVID HANDS'S BELECTION BACKS

FUIL BACKS: T Simpson (England), N Beel (England)
WINGS: A Addition (England), 1 Evens (Wales), T Underwood (England) amin (Wales), \$ Gibbs (Wales), W Greenwood (England), and), @ Townsend (Scotland)

STAND-OFF HALVES: M Catt (England), P Grayson (England), N Jenkins (Wales) SCRUM HALTES: K Bracken (England), A Healey (England), R Howley (Wales) FORWARDS

PROPS: J Leonard (England), Q Rowntree (England), T Smith (Scotland), P Wallace (Ireland), D Young (Wales) HOOKERS: P Greening (England), M Regan (England), R Nesdale (Ireland) LOCKS: J Davidson (Ireland), M Johnson (England), S Shaw (England), G Weir (Scotland)

BACK ROW: N Back (England), L Dellaglio (England), R Hill (England), E Miller (Ireland), S Quinnell (Weles), T Rodber (England), R Wakerright (Scotland)

be called upon at tight-head prop and a late runner has emerged in Barrie Williams, the Neath hooker. All these players, however, offer hostages to fortune, either because are prone to injury, or for

disciplinary reasons, or simply because their experience is so limited that there can be no certainty about their ability to

perform in South Africa. The dynamic Wood, for example,

has not played since dislocating a shoulder against France in January. He has a history of shoulder problems exacerbated by his kamikaze approach in the loose; should he start the tour, it is pertinent to wonder whether he will finish it.

Phil Greening, the England re-serve, offers similar qualities, but measured more sensibly; Williams is a good ball player whose time for Wales will surely come, while Ross Nesdale, Wood's replacement, offers a solid dose of New Zealand reality and organisation.

At the start of this season. Redpath, the Melrose scrum half. would have been my favourite as second-choice scrum half behind Robert Howley. But he has strug-gled with injury during his past two internationals, a back condition kept him out of the Scotland tour to New Zealand last summer and Kyran Bracken is playing so well for Saracens that he must rate consideration, along with Austin Healey, who has the advantage of being able to play on the wing.

Indeed, flexibility is the keynote to the party that I would choose to leave on May 17, a virtue partly imposed by necessity since there is no obvious contender for the vital position of stand-off half. Gregor Townsend or Mike Catt could do a job there, but you would not place your mortgage on their ability to run the game; Paul Grayson will surely go for his goal-kicking alone, but it would be no surprise were Jenkins to be reborn as an international stand-off this summer.

That assumes his broken forearm will mend in time. Wales may prefer Jenkins at full back, yet his skills as pivot for Pontypridd are clear to see. If McGeechan couldturn Rob Andrew into a worldclass performer in Australia in 1989, then he can do as much for Jenkins in South Africa, and so obviate the need to consider Jonathan Davies, 34, for whom the bridge between the two rugby codes may just have come too late.

Leicester ring changes, page 43

Weary Taylor considers break from tour

MARK TAYLOR is considering standing down from the Australia cricket team, despite leading his country to victory in the Test series in South Africa and the second one-day international in Port Elizabeth on Monday.

Taylor has struggled with the bat throughout the six weeks of the tour and there are fears that he may be suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome. Taylor, who played a series of wild shots as he laboured for 44 balls to score 17 in Port Elizabeth, believes a self-imposed exile be the solution to his

have a rest from bat and ball and maybe try the golf club and the little white ball for a while," he said after his side's seven-wicket win, which levelled the seven-match one-day series at 1-1. The third match is in Cape Town today.

There appears to be no suggestion, however, of Taylor missing any part of Australia's 16-week tour of England, which starts early next month and the team for which is due to be announced this weekend.

He has received private assurances that he will lead the team from the selectors and from Denis Rogers, the chairman of the Australian Cricket Board, who is in South Africa. "He is the best man for the job and has carried himself remarkably well as cap-

There had been speculation that Taylor might temporarily step down at the start of the one-day series, especially as he

was experiencing back pain that has required treatment in

However, Ian Healy, the vice-captain, was suspended for two matches because of ill discipline during the third and final Test match at Centurion, thus forcing Taylor to carry on. Healy returns to the side

Taylor, 32, has been playing

"I might have the next few games off and give Michael Di Venuto a go," Taylor said. "I thought about having the sec-ond game off ... it won't be easy as captain of the tour but I've sat out before. I don't believe I've lost it with the bat, To say I'm mentally tired is probably true. It certainly hasn't been through lack of

trying." Taylor is not the first cricketer to suffer from the exhausting effects of the modern international treadmill. Richie Richardson, the former West Indies captain, took a sabbatical after being unable to complete a second season in county cricket with Yorkshire in 1994, and during his four years as a Test captain rarely produced the batting form of

Michael Atherton, who is expected to lead England against Taylor's side this summer, has mentally stood up extremely well to the immense demands of his job but he, too, has been plagued by back problems and, like Taylor, was keen that he — and his



Taylor is grim-faced as he leaves the field after being dismissed in the final Test against South Africa last month. Photograph: Mike Hutchings

ACROSS

- 5 Science of space flight (12) 8 Smooth little stone (6)
- 9 Niche; business suspension
- 10 Sole (4) 12 Actually if unofficially (2.5)
- 14 Arranged in lists (7)
- 15 Bloke; bay (4) 17 Shrivel (6)
- 18 Type of hound, rug (6) 20 A picture plaster for it

(anag.) (4-8)

SOLUTION TO NO 1056 ACROSS: 1 Sepuichral 7 Quickie 8 Noted 10 Also-ran 11 Donor: 12 Encode 15 Ignore 17 Ember 18 Radical 21 Locke 22 Ovation 23 Persifiage

DOWN: 1 Swiss 2 Poker 3 Lierne 4 Hangdog 5 Antonio 6 Square meal 9 Dajeeting 13 Cubicle 14 Darkens 16 Cry off 19 Drama 20 Chide

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 1052
In association with BRITISH MIDLAND ACROSS: 1 Spiked 5 Bereft 8 Pawn 9 Grouping 10 Caustic 11 Silly 13 Die the death 16 Shoal 18 Messiah 21 Trombone 22 Ahoy 23 Wessex 24 Typify

DOWN: 2 Placard 3 Kings 4 Dogfight 5 Blot 6 Replica 7 Final 12 Adherent 14 Erasmus 15 Head off 17 Horde

ist PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDIAND's domestic or international network is R

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Make a fool of (4,3,1,4)

- Archangel; Oak (Hardy)
- 4 In detached way (mus.) (8) 6 Above; finished (4)
- 7 Be very expensive (4,3,5) 11 Dismiss as trivial (5,3)
- 13 Fighter (7) 16 Role, separate (4)

accused Bobby Gould, the Wales manager, of making racist remarks to him. Matters reached a head last week after

a training-ground incident and Blake refused to take his place on the substitutes' bench for the World Cup qualifying match against Belgium at the National Stadium.

Blake, 25, said yesterday that he would not play for Wales again while Gould was manager. I have a total lack of respect for him," he said. "I went to see him before the game and told him that I did not want to be part of his

NATHAN BLAKE, the black

Bolton Wanderers striker, has

Gould vehemently denied the claims yesterday. "I am not a racist, I have nothing to hide," he said. Blake's grievance follows a series of alleged incidents, starting six years ago, when Blake played for Cardiff City. He claims that

today, opening the way for Taylor to take his overdue rest.

almost continually since Octo-ber and has had little time away from the game since taking over as captain of Australia from Allan Border late in 1994. His poor form in Tests spans 11 matches dating he scored his most recent halfcentury, an innings of 96 against Sri Lanka in Perth.

which he was once capable. side - should take a rest from



"bat and ball" before the winter tour of Zimbabwe and

The desire to have a break was understandable but it resulted in England being "caught cold" in the early weeks of the tour and Atherton himself went through his

worst run of form with the bat since becoming captain. He scored 196 runs in 13 innings in Zimbabwe, although David Houghton, the Zimbabwe player-coach, claimed some of the credit for his troubles, saying that he had instructed his bowlers to target Atherton.

tion. "I called in Nathan

straightaway and told him

that if I had caused any

offence, if I had said some-

thing out of place, then I would apologise. And I did,"

at Nathan personally, as an

individual, then maybe he

could substantiate what he is

saying, but it wasn't My

main disappointment was that

Nathan didn't come to see me

"If my remark was directed

Gould said.



Atherton: coping with demands of captaincy

Injury robs

Gould accused of racism by Blake after training dispute

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

Gould, who took a training session for Len Ashurst, then Cardiff manager, directed racist comments at him and another black player. In October last year, Hol-land beat Wales 3-1 in Cardiff,

two of the goals being scored by Pierre van Hooijdonk. Blake claimed that Gould came into the dressing-room and said: "Who was supposed to be marking that black bastard?" Gould said yesterday: "I might have said Who should have picked up that big so-and-so? but there was no

racist intent in it."

Blake's discontent spilt over last week, when Gould Last night the Football Association of Wales (FAW) promwas handing out the coloured bibs for training. Gould said:
"I gave out the yellow ones, the ised a full inquiry. Brian Fear, the FAW president, said: "We intend to launch an investigagreen, the white, and then I said to Nathan: You're in the tion and talk to the team blacks'. Perhaps I said it with manager and to the player a wry smile, maybe a bit. cryptically, but nothing was

Britain of Rusedski Blake subsequently complained to Neville Southall the Wales coach, who brought the matter to Gould's atten-

BRITAIN'S hopes of reclaiming their place at the high table of world tennis receded yesterday. Already shorn of the services of Tim Henman for the Davis Cup tie against Zimbabwe this weekend, they were further weakened when it was confirmed that Greg Rusedski has not recovered from a wrist injury

The winners of the Euro-African group one contest at Crystal Palace will advance into the world group, comprising the leading 16 nations, but without Henman, who has had an operation on his elbow, or Rusedski, in the opposition, Byron Black, Zimbabwe's world No 46, can look forward to his two singles encounters with some

David Lloyd, the Britain coach, is left with Andrew Richardson, Mark Petchey, Jamie Delgado and Neil Broad, who is a doubles

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